

Knowing God
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Read John 4: 5 – 42 *The Woman at the Well*

After Jesus asks a Samaritan woman to give him a drink of water, and she responds with her confusion as to why he would ask her knowing Jews did not associate with Samaritans, Jesus' answer is this: "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." Jesus further explains that those who drink the water from the well will be thirsty again – but those who drink the water Jesus gives to them will never thirst. This water will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Although the importance of the symbol of water in our Christian lives is paramount, after reading this passage several times, it is the "knowing" of God that I believe is a message we need to hear for Lent. After the woman realizes Jesus is a prophet and "knows" all of her life, he explains to her that everyone must "know" what they worship. He then states that "God is spirit and God's worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

In this passage when Jesus' disciples return after gathering food, he tells them that he has food they know nothing about. "My food is to do the will of God who sent me to finish God's work." He explains that one sows and another reaps and that he has sown and it is now time for them to reap the benefits of his labor. Once again, Jesus speaks of the importance of "knowing" him. The passage is concluded with other Samaritans coming to believe in him – not only because the Samaritan woman told them to come and see a man who could be Christ – but because they asked him to spend time with them and they came to "know" him and they became believers.

If we are to worship God – to follow the path of Christ – how can we do this without "knowing" God. In knowing, we will receive the gift of eternal life and benefit from God's harvest. How do we "know" our God? How do we experience God? How do we be in relationship with God? Perhaps these are questions we can be asking ourselves through Lent, as we find our path in sharing the Love of our God in this World.

Please pick up your Bible and read John 4: 5 – 42. I suggest you read it at least twice, perhaps three times and then reflect on what jumps out at you during your reading.

Prayer: Dear God/Spirit: May you make yourself "known" to us in every living thing. May you bless us with strength, patience, and wisdom as we seek you in loved ones, strangers, ourselves, and those we fear. May we come to know you in body, mind and soul. Help us share that "knowing" with others. Amen.