

# “You are his father?”

“I never knew you. Away from me”

Matthew 7:23

**A**n old saying goes like this, “It’s not what you know but who you know.” I think there is some truth to it. I recall being at a fundraising banquet in the summer of 2010 for the Haiti earthquake relief. I had several guests with me and we had a fine meal and lots of information about the disaster in Haiti in January 2010.

One of the speakers was an advanced care paramedic who happened to be my oldest son. The reason he was speaking was that he and his family had been doing medical work in Haiti at a relief mission when the earthquake struck. He had some amazing stories to tell us about the terror, the suffering, the frustrations, and the victories of that tragic time.

After the evening’s program was done I spoke to some of the people there that I had not met before. During the conversation with one person the fact that I was the father of the featured speaker got out. As soon as they realised who I was they suddenly became very excited about speaking with me. I was instantly an important person because of my relationship to

the speaker of the evening.

This individual had been working with my son for a number of years in Burlington and knew of his reputation there and also what he had done in Haiti. In fact 16-18 paramedics from their service had gone down to Haiti to work alongside my son a week or so after the quake. Everyone really liked my son so they instantly liked me. So it is not so much what you know as it is who you know.

It is the same with Jesus and our relationship with Him. You may not be familiar with the books of the Bible, you may not be able to recite from memory the names of the apostles, maybe you cannot state the ten commandments. That is not what is important. It is not what you know that matters in Christianity, it is Who you know that counts.

According to the verses prior to our verse for today Jesus is speaking about the coming judgment and the fact there will be some there who are horrified that Jesus does not know them. From what Jesus tells us there will be some who have preached in His name, some who have exorcised demons and done

miracles who thought they were heaven bound. Jesus will inform some of these people that they were really never known by Him.

What Jesus means by Him not “knowing” them is that He never truly participated in their lives. Jesus is saying that they were never truly connected to Him. When the Psalmist says in Psalm 1:6, “The Lord knows the way of the righteous” he means that God is actively involved with the lives of His people.

To be known by God is to have Him intervening in your life in numerous ways. God comforts you when you are sorrowful, He disciplines you when you stray from His way, He keeps you from too heavy a burden to bear in life, He speaks to you through the Bible, providence, sermons, other believers, and so on.

Do you know God? Or more importantly does God know you? It is not what you know, it is Who you know.

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