

August 08, 2021
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 19:4-8
Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Eph 4:30 - 5:2
Jn 6:41-51

KNOWING HIM WELL!

Have you ever experienced saying that you know well the person just because you know the parents?

I am pretty sure that there was a time in our journey wherein we only have few facts about a person and we already made a conclusion we know the person's totality. We didn't even have the chance to spend time with the person and yet we pass a quick judgment as if we know everything. To know a few facts about a person does not necessarily mean that we know the person well.

This mind-set/attitude, unfortunately, is also being applied/carried out on matters of faith. **What do I mean by that?** Let me share with you a story.

Many, many years ago, there was a parishioner who volunteered to assist a catechist in journeying with the middle school kids of the parish. After a year, for whatever reason, the parishioner left the Church. Now, an ex-Catholic, the person claimed he knew everything about the Catholic faith because of a year of experience tacked on his belt. Hearing his claim, my reaction was so simple - I said to myself: **"How I wish I was gifted with such knowledge of knowing everything about the faith in just a year of studying it!"**

My point is this - we may have deepened our understanding of the faith in a year of studying it but it does not mean we know everything well already especially the person of Jesus. Knowing and deepening well our faith in Jesus entails a continuing process of being formed and transformed by him

every day. It is an on-going process wherein it is only through his grace that we will have a better understanding of him as our Savior and Lord.

In today's gospel proclaimed Jesus revealed himself as the 'Bread of Life' that came down from heaven. His revelation was out rightly rejected by his listeners. They thought they knew him well simply because they knew his parents. The few facts they were holding on made them conclude that they knew Jesus well. Obviously, they were wrong. They only saw the humanity of Jesus but not his divinity. Thus, they saw Jesus' offering of eternal life as absurd. Instead of being open to his revelation, they shielded themselves from it by just using the few facts they were holding on.

What is the invitation of the Gospel for us?

First, the Gospel invites us not to make any rash/quick judgment on people we don't know about. The few facts we have about the person does not necessarily mean that we already know the person well. The rash/quick judgment we make is often a reflection of our person rather than the other person.

Second, the Gospel invites us to continue knowing Jesus well. This invitation demands that we must be always in constant communication with Jesus. This constant communication with him can take the form of attending Mass, reading the Bible, praying the Rosary, spending time in front of the Blessed Sacrament, and silent meditation/reflection to name a few. To know Jesus well demands efforts on our part. And so, we ask ourselves, **what conscious effort are we going to do to know Jesus better; love him deeper; and serve him humbler?**

As we continue our Eucharistic celebration, we thank the Lord Jesus for knowing and loving each of us well. On the other hand, we ask him to help us be consistent in our desire of knowing, loving, and serving him well every day.

God bless us all!