

## To know God and to make God known : Part 1

### Jeremiah 9 : 23 - 24

- Above all else what does God want from us ?
- That God wants us to know Him is very humbling – the all powerful, all knowing, omniscient, self sustaining God and creator of the Universe wants us to know Him !
- In our culture “knowing” is mainly an intellectual, objective exercise
- Very different in the Hebrew culture. The Hebrew word for “know” is “yada” which means knowing through experience from within a personal relationship

We know God in the way that he wants us to through personally experiencing His character.

In each of the following scriptures, knowing God comes from experiencing elements of his character.

**Jeremiah : 16 : 21** - His power and might

**Ezekiel 30 : 8** - His justice and wrath

**Hosea 2 : 19-20** - His righteousness, compassion, and faithfulness

### Matthew 7 : 21-23

- Jesus is speaking here of a “yada” relationship with him
- Many people would know about Jesus and would even speak about him but unless they are in a close “yada” relationship with him, they will not find salvation
- The only way we can know God in a way that matters, is to be in a close personal relationship with Him

### Isaiah 59 : 1-2

- God is completely holy and cannot be in the presence of sin
- In our sinful state we are separated from God and unable to know him at a “yada” personal relationship level
- That wall of sin needs to be removed for us to enter into the presence of God

So how do we enter into a “yada” relationship with God in which the wall of sin is taken away and we can have a true and close fellowship with God ?

### John 14 : 6

- Jesus is the only way to the Father
- To use his words – we need to go through Jesus in order to get to know God in a “yada” way
- It’s like going through a tunnel – we first need to go into the tunnel in order to go through it

Jesus uses a few different metaphors to describe this - he refers to himself as a gate, a ladder and a curtain.

**John 10 : 7-9**

- Jesus is the gate to the sheep pen
- He is the only way for the sheep to get into the pen.
- The sheep in the pen are those who have been justified by God and enter into a relationship with Him in His family. In other words, those who know him in a “yada” way.

**John 1 : 51**

- Jesus is the ladder into God’s presence in heaven
- Is clear reference to the dream that Jacob had of a ladder connecting heaven and earth (Genesis 28)
- There are not many ladders that we can choose from to get to heaven / the place of God’s presence – there is only one ladder and that is Jesus

**Hebrews 10 : 19-22**

- In the OT Temple, God lived in an area right at the centre called the Holy of Holies which was shielded by a heavy curtain
- Jesus is compared to this curtain through which we need to go to get to the Father

**Matthew 27 : 51**

- At the point of Jesus dying on the cross, the temple curtain tore in two
- The death of Jesus enabled access to the father - the cross is central to breaking down the barrier of sin that separates people from God and prevents them from having a “yada” relationship with Him

**Galatians 3 : 26-29**

- We are clothed with Christ / we enter into his life through baptism
- At baptism we die to our old selves and are raised to new life in Jesus
- Our sins are forgiven and removed as the barrier between us and God, and we enter into His family where we can enjoy a “yada” relationship with Him

**Conclusion**

Jesus is the only way to the Father. He provides the way to a “yada” relationship with God. That involves going through Jesus by entering into His life. We have these images of Jesus as a gate, a ladder and a curtain to help us understand.

We enter into the life of Jesus at baptism. Through the waters of baptism our sin is dealt with and we enter into God’s presence and enjoy a close, personal “yada” relationship with Him. And the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus makes that possible.