

***“Jesus knows me better than I” John 10:22-30 (5/11/25)***

When I was young, I thought my mother knew everything about me. Even though I did not say anything, my mother knew everything about me. Just looking at my face, she knew my feelings, what I was thinking, and what had happened to me on that day. Sometimes, she knew what I wanted to eat for lunch or dinner even though I did not tell her.

When I was studying abroad, there was no video calling or fast internet to share video. The only way that my mother and I could be connected to each other was an international phone call. Even though it was just a phone call, she knew everything about me through my voice. I did not tell my mother details about my days, not to give her any concerns. But she knew everything once she heard my voice. I thought my mother was a mighty person, at least about me. She knew about me better than me when I was young.

Now, I have one more person who knows about me better than I do. She is my wife. She is really good at reading my face, and I cannot hide anything from her. This happens a lot between us. For example, if I think, ‘I want to eat pizza for my lunch today,’ then my wife directly asks me, “How do you think about pizza for lunch today?” My mother knew about me well when I was young, and now I think

my wife knew about me more than my mother.

After I became a father, I could understand how my mother knew about me well. One thing that I loved about this country's culture was that the hospital lets parents and a newborn baby stay together right after the birth of the baby. In my country, to let the mother rest and for the safety of the newborn baby, the nurse takes the newborn baby to the baby's caring room after the birth of the baby. So, parents can only meet the baby during feeding time and through the window of the baby room. Because of this country's culture, my wife and I could be with Sooho and Sua since they were born. I still remember that Sooho slept on my belly on the first night of his birthday. My fat belly was helpful for caring for the baby. I tried the same way to let Sua sleep well when she was born, but she did not like it.

Because I could have been with Sooho and Sua since they were born, I know a lot about them. Now, my children can express what they think and feel, but when they were little babies, they could not say anything. They could only cry. However, as parents, my wife and I knew what they wanted and needed even though they were just crying. Even now, we know what they like, do not like, what they want to say and do.

In today's Scripture, Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them,

and they follow me.” Jesus said he knew his sheep. When we think about our faith and spiritual life, we often think that we are Christians who live to know God. However, before we know God, God knows us. Christians are the people who know God knows about us better than us.

Compared to the other three Gospel books, the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the Gospel of John has a different view of Jesus. John wrote the Gospel to let people know who Jesus was and to encourage people to keep their faith while they were suffering. So, John wrote many signs of Jesus to show Jesus was the Messiah, Christ.

In today’s Scripture, the Jews gathered around Jesus and said to Jesus, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” Some scholars argue that those Jewish people asked this question to attempt Jesus to say something about blasphemy. No matter what argument is from this question, one thing we could know through this question is that those Jewish people did not know who Jesus was. Jesus showed many signs before this event, and people already knew that Jesus was the Son of God, but people still did not know who Jesus was. They were not sure that Jesus was the Christ.

Jesus answered their question, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The

works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand." He said, "I know them." Let's imagine Christians' feelings when they read this passage. Let's imagine the Christians' feelings who were suffering from the Roman Empire's persecution. They might not have been sure about Jesus and their faith when they saw Christians being captured and killed by the Roman Empire. I am confident that when those Christians who were persecuted read this Gospel Scripture, "I know them," they would be encouraged to continue and stand firm on their faith as followers, sheep of Jesus.

When we encounter difficulties in our lives, when we suffer for any reason in our lives, our faith can be weakened. Because of our weaknesses, our faith can be weakened. In times of difficulty, I believe the first thing we should do is not push ourselves to have stronger faith in Jesus. I believe the first thing that we should do is believe that "Jesus knows better than I. Even about myself, Jesus knows me better than I do."

When I experienced God's presence eventually, I confidently told my parents that I would not go back to China and I would stay in New Zealand to know more

about God. I was so happy, and I expected that God would work in my life. However, my parents were angry and blamed my uncle when they heard my decision. And even my pastor also said to me that I was not wise. After I had faith in Jesus, I faced many troubles which were too difficult for me to overcome.

Anyway, I decided to stay in New Zealand and started praying about what to do next and what to do for God. When my previous problems were finally solved, God gave me more difficult tasks in my life. When I prayed for what I should do for God, God poured the thoughts of being a pastor into my heart. I ignored this heart of ministry for three reasons. First, it did not make sense to me, who just had a year of church life. Second, I had no confidence in persuading my parents. Third, history, philosophy, and art were the study that I really hated. So, I thought I misunderstood the voice of God in my heart when I was praying.

However, God poured this heart of being a pastor into me for about a year. This voice of God really was torturing me when I prayed. One day, in my heart, I started to confess that ‘Jesus knows me better than I. It does not make sense at all. But if it is a calling of God, who knows me better than I know myself, let me obey this voice of God. So, I accepted God’s calling. And that is why I am here today. Throughout my life's journey from the day of my calling until today, I have come to

realize that God knows me more than I do. Of course, the journey was not easy, but every moment God guided my journey. Sometimes God closed the door, and sometimes God opened the door. I did not know how much I liked history and theology studies. I believe that God knows me more than I do.

As Jesus said to the Jewish people in today's Scripture, Jesus knows his sheep, which means Jesus knows us. Before we loved Jesus, Jesus loved us first. Before we say Jesus is our Lord, Jesus said, "You are my people." Before we knew Jesus, Jesus knew us. Sometimes, we encounter difficulties in our lives. Oftentimes, we do not know the reason for the difficulties and challenges. However, Jesus knows better than we do. Jesus knows us better than we do. I confidently believe Jesus will guide our lives and will be with us because he knows us better than we do. This week, I hope we can experience the warm heart of God who knows us. May God comfort our hearts and grant us true peace this week. Amen.