

Home Study

Mark's Epiphany



THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Family ... a word for many that brings a feeling of comfort and belonging. If you were asked to define your family, what might that look like? Would you list your spouse and children? Would you include your extended family? What about your pets? Many people define family to mean many different things. There is a part of our family you may or may not think of often, but according to Jesus it is our family, none the less.

TODAY'S READING

Open your Bibles and read Mark 3:31-35. As you read, think about the emotions you might have had if you were there to hear Jesus say these words.

In all honesty, upon reading this passage it is hard to not feel that Jesus is snubbing his mother and brothers. However, there are two items that must be taken into account here.

One, I am a sinful human being, and because of that my initial instinct is to only view this statement in a negative sinful light.

Two, Jesus is perfect. As God he is without sin; and, because of this, one must be careful to not assume the motive behind such statements.

Jesus is taking this moment to teach the people who were gathered around him the meaning of being a part of the family of God. When he asks (verse 33). "Who are my mothers and brothers," he is not snubbing or slighting his family. Rather, he is opening the idea that he could have more than what the worldly view of family was.

Read again verses 34-35.

In these words, Jesus provides an opportunity for this crowd of people to understand that as children of God, as those who seek to follow God's will, we are all a part of a much bigger family. Jesus is not saying that Mary and his brothers are not a part of this family. He is merely trying to show the larger group that they are all family.

How does this teaching moment, portrayed by Mark in his Gospel, apply to you?

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Through your baptism you were claimed as a child of God, and an heir to the kingdom. As God's children we should love and care for our fellow family members just like we might care for our nuclear family. As wonderful of a gift as our nuclear families are, God poured out even more love for us by providing us thousands upon thousands of more family members through the loving sacrifice Christ made for us. It is through the death and resurrection that we might be called children of God.

Can you think of a person in the Christian family who's been like a sister or brother to you?

How have you acted like a sister or brother to someone in the Christian family recently? How might you do so in the week ahead?

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of family. Thank you for all of the love and care that I/we receive not only from the family as defined by the world, but also from my/our family of faith. We know that this family is only made possible through the generous, grace-filled actions that our Lord Jesus Christ took when he willingly gave up his life in place of mine/ours. Please help my/our heart to be eternally grateful for this act of love that has included me/us in your blessed family. Amen.