

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Treasures of Mary
Title: The God Who Sanctifies You
Text: Mark 3:20-35
Speaker: Michael Dick
Date: March 15, 2020



WARM-UP

Invite individuals to share a memorable interaction they had as a child with a parent.

OR

How is participation in the life of the church is different today than when you were a child. What, in your opinion, are the factors that have contributed to the changes?

OR

Share one thing that stood out to you from the message this past Sunday.

DISCUSSION

Read Mark 3:20 – 31

This story incorporates what is called intercalation or bracketing. It allows for two accounts to interpret each other; for a lapse of time; to heighten tension in the story; to make a contrast. In this story it allows Jesus' family time to travel from Nazareth to Capernaum. More importantly it demonstrates that at this point Jesus' family and the religious authorities misunderstood and opposed Him.

- What are the concern(s) of Jesus' family?
- What are the concern(s) of the religious leaders?
- What is the significance of Jesus' response to the religious leaders? What is Jesus saying about the importance of unity in mission?
- Discuss Mary's (Michael's) interpretation of what it means to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit. (Focus on verse 28 as the primary statement. Understand the sin against the Holy Spirit as the unwillingness of an individual to confess the sin the Spirit brings to their mind. cf. John 16:7-11; Mark 14:72; Psalm 51:1 – 12).
- In what way does Jesus redefine the importance of the biological family?

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DISCUSSION

- What texts can you point to that demonstrates that Jesus was also concerned for the biological family? (e.g. Mark 10:1 – 12, 13 – 16; John 19:25 – 27)
- If our first priority as Christians is God and His family – not just God – what does it mean for our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ?
- How would church as 'first family' impact orphans, widows/widowers, singles in our community?
- What is one thing you could change to make the church family a higher priority in your life as an individual or as a family?