

MARK — Jesus' True Family

Pastor Perry Burkholder

Uncommunicated Expectations

We all have expectations on other people, and everyone has expectations on us. Nothing reveals those expectations more than when we start to behave according to the will of the Holy Spirit.

Especially if you start talking differently, acting differently, and setting new values. This often breaks the mold of people's expectations on you and they may start asking you why you've changed.

Family and friends will react. Some will think you are crazy.

Mark 3:20-35

Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. In fact,

no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin."

He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

"Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mk 3:20–35.

He is Insane

Perhaps out of a sense of compassion and care, Jesus' own family decided that he was crazy and that it was time to bring him home. He couldn't even eat and was drawing massive crowds wherever he went. They decided it was time for this to stop.


Which makes a lot of sense from a mother's standpoint.

But the dramatic irony here is that this isn't an ordinary son, but the Son of Man. And what is clear here is that Jesus' own family didn't understand who he was.

Changes

Pastor Perry shared about how when he became a Christian, his family and his friends had mixed reactions. Some people didn't react well, and some people reacted neutrally. But in both cases, Perry shared that he knew right away that he was all of a sudden detached from his old friend group and even from some of his family and had to attach to a new family.

Throughout Pastor Perry's life, he had many moments where he differentiated from the people that he was with — even other Christians in some cases — in order to do God's will.

 Often God's will is communicated by His Spirit and his voice is relentless — and do we listen or do we tune that out?

He Is a Demon

The teachers of the law made the long trek from Jerusalem and started accusing Jesus of being on the side of spiritual rebels.

But how can the Accuser cast out the Accuser? Jesus' response is a logic question. A family divided against itself can't stand.

Anything divided cannot stay together. If I myself am divided, I can't stand. If I'm divided over whose will I'm doing.



Pastor Perry shares that the most miserable people in the world are Christians who have one foot in the Kingdom of Jesus and the other foot in the Kingdom of Spiritual Rebels.

And in all of this, the Holy Spirit's relentless voice is asking us to not be divided. What if we woke up and agreed with the Holy Spirit to do his will?

And Jesus rebukes the Religious Leaders by accusing them of being under the power of Spiritual rebels. He reveals to them through his parable of the strong man that he is the more powerful one who **bound** the strong man in order to set people free.

Forgiveness

People can be forgiven of all of their sins — Jesus is plundering the Accuser's house, which looks like forgiveness of sins and the healing of their bodies and the redemption from demons.



Jesus' forgiveness is to unbind people from sin and guilt; the people are no longer tied up by the Satan.

But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven because they're guilty of an eternal sin. They will never be released from their sin.

To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is the same as profaning the Name; speech that defies God's authority and power; a heart hardened space that gets up in God's face and is defiant toward him.



This accusation was charged at the Religious Leaders because they were meant to be the experts of the Name, but they attributed his power to the Accuser. They were calling good evil and evil good. This was a warning to their accusation.

Whose will are you going to do? That is your decision every morning you wake up.

He Is The Stronger One Starting a New Family

Jesus' decisions are costing him his family and his religious community. And now the family are here trying to inquire for him, probably to take him away.

“Who are my mother and brothers?”

Whoever does God's will is part of Jesus' family. Jesus destroys the individual Christian mentality. If you are doing God's will, you are automatically attached to Jesus and Jesus' people. Someone doing the will of God cannot be alone.

Jesus wants to give you a new family.

You need a new family because following Jesus requires it. Jesus wants to give you a family to belong to and identify with.



Whose will are you going to do? Jesus wants to unbind you from sin and death and spiritual rebels. And then he wants to put you in spiritual family.

For however long you are here in Seattle, 3 months, 3 years, or 30 years, please invest yourself in Jesus' family. Jesus wants you rooted in the love of God and love of community. Will you attach?

You never know what's on the other side of your obedience.