

Reflection

A reflection on the 10th Sunday of ordinary time Mark 3.31-35

A crowd said to Jesus, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." In response, Jesus said, "My mother, sister, and brother are all those who do God's will."

Jesus is testing us when He says, "Does your relationship depend on the fact that you know who I am, and worship and follow me?" in the line above. Jesus underlines that his mother, sister, and brother are all those who carry out the divine plan. Being referred to by Jesus as his mother, sister, or brother is the greatest honor there is. The great honor he bestows is fellowship and suffering with him here, and glory with him in the life to come.

Our relationship with Jesus and his family is significantly more demanding and gratifying than a family of humans. Though family ties are very important in this example, but they are not more important than our dedication to God's will and our families. The point being made by the Lord is that lasting relationships are not limited to natural ties alone. The most fundamental and enduring of all ties is our unity with Christ. Any devotion that centers in earthly allegiance turns into idolatry, and all idolatries ultimately result in the destruction of their followers. Christianity is not an extreme religion that separates followers from their parents and siblings. Who then is the mother, sister, and eternal brother of Christ? It is anyone who follows God's will." What really counts are the choices one makes after one is born. We are being invited to identify with those who sit at Jesus' feet—a group of people who prioritize God above all else in their lives and who are proudly robust in their faith.