LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURH GARNER,NC 61018

Bindgin the strong man

In the name…

Let us pray

The gospel of Mark up till this chapter has Jesus all over the place. We might call it Jesus ADHD chapter or at least maybe the writer of Mark’s.He is teaching in the synogogues, He is healing people on the Sabbath and He gets His team together. When He does, He is allowing His disciples to pick corn on the Sabbath.

He has been in Capernaum and now He went home. And I have said the Gospel is all over the lot. This text is all over the lot. Now He went home.

Four words prior to our text. He has become noticed so a crowd came together again. Such a big crowd they could not even eat.

And then we are told “the family heard IT”. What is IT? Is it what Jesus had done already in His ministry? Was it just the fact that the crowd came together? Was it that He was not honoring the Sabbath? Maybe the IT is something that was omitted. In the film A Wrinkle in Time” IT is the general understanding of evil that just hovers overhead. The family is certainly thinking the IT is something negative because they wanted to restrain Him because people were saying “He has gone out of His mind”. I was recommended to see the film “I Can Only Imagine” which I did this week and we see family in the film in a variety of ways usually not so positively. Often in Scripture Jesus family is portrayed not so positively. And if you jump to middle of the text, the most unusual verse has Jesus saying “No one can enter a strong man’s house without first tying up the strong man so the house can be plundered.” Is Jesus the strong man that now people are tying up?”

This notion gets taken further by the scribes, He is possessed by Beelzebul and that is where He gets His power. And the writer is not that Jesus heard the scribes were speaking of Him that way and He calls them to Him and spoke to them in parables. And what follows is not a parable like we know. So maybe here there was a parable that was omitted. He is saying it does not make sense that someone who is casting out demons is possessed by them. And he elaborates about divisions, divisions amongst the devils, divisions of kingdoms, houses,

And then the Strong man being tied up. So is the strong man the evil all around that one has to restrain in order to bring about cleansing or in His words, “plundering”.

What is noticeable here is that He has not addressed His family at all , the family that wanted to restrain Him because people were saying He was out of His mind. Total shift again. Talking about forgiveness. He says all sins can be forgiven except…. Forgiveness is a large theme in I Can Only Imagine and it is portrayed beautifully as easy for God, not so easy for us even though we know that we should. The one sin that can not be forgiven is that against the Holy Spirit. Seems like a tacked on line at the end of this piece, “He has an unclean spirit” That is referring to the fact that they are saying His power comes from the Spirits of Satan.

So now as we look at the text, when Jesus first came home, He did not immediately seek out His family. When they are talked about early in the text they were not with Him, but now we see they actually show up, and it is more specific; His mother and brothers. They are standing outside, they called Him, but He did not respond. Instead He addressed the crowd, remember them, they were the ones who came together at the beginning and now we are told twice, “they are sitting around Him.” The crowd says His mother and brothers are asking for Him, and he responds by referring to the crowd, “These are my mother and brothers.”

Each morning I have the news on and one morning there was a story about a surprise that took place at a Mudcats game, “ man was brought out to the field and a teenager was down the baseline and when his blindfold was taken off she asked him “Will you adopt me.” And of course he said “Yes, of it would never have been a news story. We know when a child is in need of adoption, something has gone wrong with her family. Something was wrong Jesus felt with His family and we can surmise because they wanted to restrain Him, thought He was out of His mind.

He looked at the crowd, these are my family. No matter what might transpire in your own families, know that family of Christ, the Lord of Life family is always here for you. And if you are not seeing people like you, and what I am hearing mostly people of a certain age I challenge you to reach out like the gal that Mudcats to those who may be the age you are seeking. You know I have said this often, we are a multigenerational family of faith. Yesterday at the tea 4 children joined us ranging from baby to 8 years old, only one of which attends worship, but our people reached to them and all had a great time along the children on the other side of the age spectrum 50 and over.

Jesus was not rejecting His family, He was extending it and when He said His family are those who do the will of God we know they too eventually got the message because we know His mother was present with Him while on the cross and His brother was a leader of the church following His resurrection. My this family of faith, Lord of Life of all ages and all types show we are family by dong the will of God.

In the name…