

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Sermon Discussion Questions - John Brewer

10 Oct 2021

Matthew 12:46

Church Family

Matthew chapter 12 provides numerous examples of Jesus bucking cultural norms. When the Pharisees confront him about the disciples plucking and eating grain, he points to their harsh interpretations of the law and declares his Lordship over the sabbath. He then heals the man with the withered hand (also on the sabbath). As the Pharisees conspire against him, he withdraws, and a crowd follows. We are told “he healed them all” despite the Pharisees' charge that healing on the sabbath was unlawful. When Jesus casts demons out of a possessed man, the Pharisees accuse him of doing it by the power of Satan. Jesus uses this argument against them and again declares his lordship. At the conclusion of this setting in which Jesus has brought so many cultural norms into question, he is interrupted by an announcement that his family is present. In a culture where family heritage and lineage are dominant, Jesus topples one more cultural norm by declaring that his family are those who do the will of his father.

1. Read Matthew 23:8 in context. What is Jesus' definition of family here? The word 'brothers' is the Greek *'adelphos,'* which translates to brothers and sisters or siblings. How does this cement the point?
2. Read Mark 10:28-30. What is the reward “in this time” for leaving “house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands”?
3. Ted identified four Biblical requirements of us as church family: Love, forgive, serve, and grow. Despite common blood, biological siblings do not have perfect relationships. In our current age, the church family is not immune to this reality. Read 1 John 3:16 and Matthew 18:21-22. How are love and forgiveness integral to our relationships?
4. Read Matthew 20:28 in context and read Philippians 2:1-8. What do these passages tell us about how we should serve one another?
5. Read Ephesians 4:15-16. How are we as believers supposed to help one another grow? To what end?

Reflection: Families who have adopted a child sometimes find others try to draw a distinction between a family's biological children and adopted children using the label of "real" children for biological children. Adoptive parents would obviously say that their adopted children are their "real" children as much as their biological children are. As the church, we were all once lost sheep, but Jesus rescued us and through his blood we were adopted into his family. Jesus is our real brother and we are really brothers and sisters. Are you being a true sibling? Read Romans 8:19. What does this mean in the context of biblical family?