

Mother's Day sermon 11am 2021

Mark 3:20-21&31-35

As Jesus' ministry develops, rumours reach his family, and they are concerned for him.

20 The crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.  
21 When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' 31 So his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. 32 The crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' 33 And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' 34 And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

THEME – Jesus blows the concept of our view of family out of the water!

In the culture Jesus is speaking into there was great emphasis put on motherhood. If you had children, you were seen to have been blessed by God. If you were barren or single it was seen as shameful. However, in this scripture Jesus as usual blows the cultural views of the time out of the water.

He is not only making a nice little statement – like ahh these are all my family – no he is saying Gods way are not your ways and Gods plans are not yours. To be a mother is not the most important thing, to be in a human family is not the most important thing.

As its Mother's Day and I felt it necessary to use a prop and something that is often related to what women do – at least when I

was growing up but thank the Lord things have changed and its pretty much a thing both men and women do!

What is it? It's a bottle of clothes detergent, and I wonder if you can work out what the connection is between this clothes detergent and todays scripture? Its as you can imagine quite ambiguous.

One of the things about this detergent compared to others is that it has added in conditioner.

Jesus in todays scripture is in effect adding that condition(er) to what the culture around them at the time may have considered belonging to a family.

He throws the idea of what it means to be a mother a brother a sister a father out of the water and that is why this conditioner has a lot to do with this scripture.

Intrigued – well let me explain further.

This detergent as I said has added in conditioner – this conditioner changes the feeling of the clothes when they come out to a detergent that doesn't have a conditioner in. It makes the clothes softer, easier to iron which is a huge blessing.

If you have only ever used detergent without conditioner you may not understand how different clothes can feel. Or maybe you only believe that what you have always used is the right thing to use.

For us family is relative to our experience. While we may know there are different blends of families around, we may believe that our view on what a family should be and look like is the correct one.

Jesus is saying what you used to believe was a family unit-

in Britain its 2.4 in a family household- who knows what the.4 relates to,

In Gods kingdom family is different.

What makes the difference – what is the condition (er) of Gods family.

V 35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

You see we may not want to celebrate today if you feel you have never been able to have children or chosen not to have them.

Maybe you are single and very happy at that with that status. God says wonderful but still celebrate as today is not about celebrating motherhood as the world sees it but as celebrating it as a member of Gods family.

I have a number of friends who haven't had children for a number of different reasons, but they are all following Gods plan for there lives and the amazing thing is they have many many spiritual children.

This is the idea behind God parents. If you are a god mother today celebrate the fact that you were chosen to be Gods representative in that child's life.

That you are the conditioner in that child's life. You can bring Gods freshness and a kingdom perspective that the child may need to hear.

If you are a sister or an aunt celebrate that as you follow God plan for your life and engage in building his Kingdom you have an opportunity to bring the conditioner to someone else in your family. Bring in the softener, maybe that's to be an encourager or a listening ear. Bring Gods word into their situation and pray for them.

I have two adult daughters and to me they are both miracles as I spent many years trying to have children and so when it happened, I was ecstatic, but what I have learnt over the years is that having children is pretty time consuming and they don't always want to listen to me. I've been grateful for the spiritual; mothers a father that have been in my girls lives and the willingness from those people to show them Gods way especially in there teenage years.

There's another scripture which shows us the condition to what it means to belong to Gods family and to our status in that family:

Romans 8 <sup>14</sup> For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

This is a wonderful statement as it brings us all to a place of being the same status.

We are all Gods children, yes some of us will be spiritual mothers and fathers, some of us will have given birth to our children, some of us will have adopted our children but regardless of what we may see ourselves as now God sees us in 1 way and that is as his precious child.

Romans again tells us how we become gods' children- Those who are led by Gods spirit.

Do we know Gods spirit leading us? Do we have the right conditioner in our lives to know that we are in Gods family?

If not, maybe we need to look afresh as to who we are following and who's family we belong to. There is no greater family to belong to than Gods family.

If you have seen long lost family which I always cry at! You will know that the family resemblance is pretty scary. Its so obvious when they meet there lost relative that they are related. For us as

Gods children we should have the resemblance of Christ. People should be able to see that added conditioner in our lives, making us soft hearted and compassionate, showing people the image of Jesus in the way we live our lives.

So today if you want to belong to Gods family and be his children please pray and ask Jesus to come into your life and be your saviour, or if you are already in the family, do you need to start following his lead more than your own so that others can see that you have that conditioner added of the Holy Spirit transforming you?

Let's pray.