

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

June 9, 2024 • 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Mark 3:20-35

Leaving the Nest

The religious leaders aren't sure what to make of Jesus' power to cast out demons and they argue about where Jesus gets his authority, going so far as to accuse him of being aligned with evil. Even his family is not sure what to make of him and seem concerned for his mental health. Jesus replies to their questions with some puzzling riddles.

Even Jesus' Holy Family, those closest to him, didn't always understand him or what he was about. Yes, his parents learned some information about his unique identity before he was born, and they experienced wonders at the time of his birth (the visits of the shepherds and the magi), but as he grew into his adult vocation, even they were surprised.

Just before today's passage, Jesus had begun to show his power, healing crowds of people of their physical and mental sicknesses. It would have been awesome and inspiring in some ways, but in other ways, it was a little scary. He had so much power, and no one had seen the kinds of things he was doing before. Imagine the confusion of thinking you know your son, only to see a new side of him revealed, a side of him that stirs people's hopes but also fears. This passage shows us the humanity of Jesus' family as they grapple with just who he is and what he means for the history of the world.

None of us have birthed the Messiah, but if you have children, you probably recognize the worries of Jesus' closest family. He has grown and changed beyond what they could have imagined, and he's not their little boy anymore. He chooses to live in a

way they didn't foresee, making them question his decisions and fear for his safety. No wonder they want to bring him back home!

But Jesus is single-minded in what his mission is, and he lets them know that he doesn't just belong to them anymore. He is leaving behind his nuclear family to create a much larger family.

FAMILY RESPONSE

What do you think it was like for Jesus' family to want him to come home but for him not to? What was like for Jesus when his family didn't understand him?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

When have you been challenged to let go of your hopes, dreams, or assumptions of what your children would be like? Is there any way in which they need you to give them freedom right now?