

“When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. “He’s out of his mind,” they said.” Mark 3:21 NLT

lectio // Mark 3:20-35

Let me just quote some thoughts I wrote in a message titled, “Who is my mother?”

So tension was heightening as Jesus continued to satisfy the needy and dissatisfy the self-reliant. It’s this powerful trilogy of tension as Matthew builds the case that the Pharisees are getting more and more agitated and Jesus’ family is getting more and more protective of him – but there is also this push called the WILL OF GOD. Jesus’ mother and brothers knew that their safety depended on keeping a low profile with the Romans and Israel’s religious leadership. These were people that could arrest, or kill the instigator. Mary and Jesus’ brothers were there to persuade Jesus to lay low and not be so “visible” with the miracles [the miracles WERE the dissonance, the break from the norm]. Mark’s gospel gives us a glimpse into the family dynamics when he writes, “they wanted to take charge of him. [grk, κράτος (G2904) to have power, become master of” Was to say they wanted to control or get him to stop. Mark 3:20, 21 “Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. Mark 3:21, when his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.” Jesus’ knows his responsibility as savior and messiah and revealing that fact required a sense of timing. It was important that some knew (disciples, selected individuals) and others did not know (Pharisees and Political Leaders). Theological Underpinnings – There are eternal purposes that include both a sense of urgency and risk. In this question, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” the answer comes as Jesus looks his “inner circle” of friends in the eyes – “anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, sister and mother.” There are godly priorities that supersede the needs of immediate family. The word, “family” in God’s economy MUST take on a broader definition. The will of God, the Kingdom of God that comes towards us, calls us to inclusionary action.

Dad,

For sure, allow me to accomplish the purpose you have set for me here in this planet. I do not have to sacrifice being a responsible husband or father to do so, but when there is natural conflict, I still MUST be obedient to you. This will encourage faith in my own life as well as the lives of those I lead.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root