

“Jesus asked, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” Matthew 12:48 NLT

lectio // Matthew 12:46-50

Why does Jesus asks these questions that you know are not NORMAL? Questions are perfect for getting someone to think without immediately raising our mental defenses. In fact our mental defenses say things like, “Is he crazy?” Questions are human puzzles to be solved not statements to be argued with. Questions invite, statements accuse. Mark’s gospel gives deeper insight into what was going on when Mary sends her sons to go “fetch” Jesus. That’s right, Mary (and the family) felt like Jesus was too risky with his words and not keeping a traditional Jewish low profile. Don’t believe me... go look at Mark 3:20, 21 - he writes, “they wanted to take charge of him. [grk, κράτος (G2904) to have power, become master of” Or to say they wanted to control or get him to stop. Jesus makes a serious point with the answer to his own question: “Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!” (12:50). There are priorities above even family, that being obedience to God. Don’t take that too far or you’ll get all cultish. Jesus isn’t dishonoring his mom and family by being bold and on mission. He is simply giving them a model that faith requires us to be bold and not always just “working” behind the scenes. The mission, and the timing of that mission was now at a critical stage and shrinking back was not an option. I’m sure Jesus did look radical to his mom, because he was moving towards the most extravagant moment in the history of humanity - and there was nowhere to hide and no reason to shrink from what grace would provide for us.

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Dad,

I love your extravagant grace! I also love all the little moments behind the scenes when Jesus told people to keep things quiet about the miracles and healing. I am in awe and wonder of your timing God! These moments in the gospels give me hope for times that boldness will be necessary and I must be ready for those moments. At those super, anxious times, when you can feel the drama at its peak, Jesus leaned in not out, right? Wow.

contemplatio

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