



Introduction

Two of the most valued identification marks within Judaism were, the Torah (Bible) and one's family. In this passage, Jesus does the unthinkable. He challenges one of the symbols that lay at the heart of Jewish identity by appearing to deny his own family. In reality, Jesus wasn't being disrespectful toward his family (as some may have thought), rather he was reordering and redefining a new family centered around himself, built on faith and love (both involve obedience).

Observation/Interpretation

- Who does Jesus say his family is?
- How does understanding who is part of God's family free us from sinful individualism and racism?
- How can we place our loyalties to friends, family, political teams, social distinctions, or economic rank back into proper relationship with Jesus? In other words, how does the Gospel affect our thinking/actions when it come to the teams/tribes we feel loyal to?

Application

Jesus' real family are those who respond to him not just by hearing, but by doing God's word. In this passage Jesus calls us to obey Him.

- Have you heard that call?
- Have you responded by receiving and believing Jesus' message?
- Do you simply believe with your head but not your heart?
- What does it look like in your life to "do" God's word?
- How does your life show that you don't just hear but obey God's word?

Prayer

- Pray that God would help you to confidently trust and obey Him.
- Pray that God would help you to bring all aspects of your life (e.g., family loyalties/social loyalties) into proper relationship with Jesus.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.