



Devotions for October 20-26, 2024

"Family: It's Complicated"

Close Message Series, Week 3

Reflection: A Mother at a Wedding (John 2:1-12)

Scripture: John 2:3-5 – "When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'"

- **Why is Mary's simple yet profound trust in Jesus significant?** How does it demonstrate her closeness to Him, even in a public situation like a wedding?
- **Consider how Mary confidently brought a need to Jesus, knowing He could provide.** How does this challenge you to bring your concerns to Jesus with the same trust?
- **Reflect on your relationship with Jesus.** Do you trust Him with both the big and small moments of your life? What steps can you take to deepen that trust this week?

Reflection: Family – Doubt (John 7:1-9)

Scripture: John 7:5 – "For not even his brothers believed in him."

- **How does the initial doubt of Jesus' brothers highlight the complexity of family relationships and faith?** What does this reveal about the patience Jesus had with them?
- **Have you ever experienced doubt or misunderstanding** within your family or community of faith? How did you work through those moments to grow closer to Jesus?
- **Faith often develops over time.** Reflect on your journey with Jesus. How have moments of doubt or confusion deepened your trust in Him?
- **Jesus didn't rush to prove Himself to His family** but stayed focused on God's timing. How can we remain patient and trust God's timing in our own relationships?

Reflection: Closer than Family (Matthew 12:49-50)

Scripture: Matthew 12:49-50 – "And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.'"

- **Jesus invites us into a relationship as close as family.** What does it mean to you that Jesus calls those who follow Him His brothers and sisters? How does this deepen your understanding of who we are in relationship to Him?
- **Think about a time when you've experienced the closeness with God.** What made that experience so powerful? What emotions did you feel?
- **Reflect on your relationships.** How has being part of Jesus' spiritual family provided comfort, support, or growth in your life?
- **Are there areas in your life where you need to engage more** in community to enrich your spiritual growth? What would that look like?
- **How can you invest more intentionally in the relationships around you,** treating others as part of your spiritual family?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, Thank You for teaching us to trust You in all areas of life. Draw us close to You, so that we may experience the deep connection and peace that comes from walking closely with You each day. Guide us as we navigate the complexities of relationships with those closest to us, and draw us deeper into Your family of believers. Help us to see and treat others as our brothers, sisters, and mothers in Your Kingdom, reflecting the love and closeness we have with You. Amen.