

COLORFUL SCRIPTURE

June 9, 2024

All Faithful Followers of Jesus are His Family

Based on: Gen 3:9-15, 2 Cor 4:13—5:1, Mk 3:20-35

By Marianne Couture

Not the usual welcome home as Jesus returns not to Nazareth but to Capernaum in his hometown area to begin his public mission of teaching and healing with his disciples.

Jesus' family is concerned about his well-being because Jesus' enthusiasm for and dedication to teaching and healing leave him no time to even eat. Family members want him to return to Nazareth. Jesus is not rejecting his biological family but is rather enlarging and expanding his spiritual family to include all the faithful people of God.

Secondly, the scribes claim that Jesus can cast out demons only because he is possessed by Beelzebel. This was the name of a pagan god that the Jews applied to Satan. Jesus calmly explains that he is doing the work of God and not the work of the devil. Jesus says the scribes have committed blasphemy by saying that his doing the work of God is the work of the devil. Blasphemy is a lack of reverence for God or irreverence toward something sacred. Jesus points out that they can be forgiven for this sin of blasphemy by accepting the forgiving power of the Holy Spirit. There are no limits to God's willingness to forgive sin and to offer his mercy to everyone. God's arms are always open to welcome all sinners.

The psalm for today says, "With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption." (Psalm 130: 7bc). What God provides for us most of all is the promise of forgiveness that flows from God's never-ending love for us.

Jesus, may our lives witness to the truth of who you are – "the Holy One of God."

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