

## 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

**June 9, 2024:** Gn 3:9-15 | Ps 130:1-8 | 2 Cor 4:13 – 5:1 | Mk 3:20-35

**Pray:** Jesus, Lover of my Soul, guide and hold me steady in Christ's family of faith. Amen.

### We are family... my brothers, sisters, and me!

Jesus asks in this week's Gospel, "Who are my mother, brothers, and sisters?" At first glance, this seems odd, considering his relatives were at home with Him. We must understand that Jesus had His mother there, along with some of His close cousins and relatives (whom, in those days, it was customary to call brothers and sisters.) They were trying to protect Jesus because He wasn't eating and caring for Himself. As crowds surrounded Him, they felt He was working himself into a frenzy, maybe even losing His mind in His zeal to heal and teach everyone. They were worried about Him, especially when the scribes began accusing Him of being able to cast out demons only because Satan Himself possessed him.

Nonsense! This was far from the truth, and Jesus quickly stood up for Himself. Jesus instructed that He is the Conqueror of the Devil, and anyone who deliberately refuses to accept His power, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation blasphemes the Holy Spirit. This hardness of heart and unwillingness to repent will not be forgiven but will lead one to Hell for eternity.

It's important to remember that God's forgiveness

is always available to us, even when we make mistakes or speak harshly in our frustration. He will continue to pursue us until our last breath. The unforgivable sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is for those who deliberately reject God and refuse His love and mercy by not repenting.

Was Jesus putting down His own family in this Gospel scene? No! Jesus holds out His welcoming arms to all who have faith in Him and trust in the Father's Holy Will. All Christian believers are adopted into His faith family as brothers and sisters of Christ. Faith in Christ the Living Word and sincerely seeking and accepting God's Holy Will bind Christians together as a family. What a gift!

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † Do you often examine your heart and seek repentance and forgiveness for your sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
- † How does God's merciful hope and Christ's acceptance of you into His inner circle—His own family—impact your daily interactions with others? How do you discern God's Holy Will when making decisions and in your actions?
- † How does it impact ministry knowing that Jesus redefines the definition of family as those who do God's Will? What can we do to lead others into our spiritual family with Jesus?
- † In what ways can we show love and acceptance to our spiritual brothers and sisters who may be different from us?

