

Taking It Home:

Read Numbers 14:1-4. When Moses sent spies into the Promised Land, ten came back with negative reports. As a result, they feared for the lives of their women and children. Instead of going to the land of promise they wanted to go to the land of slavery where it was “safe.” How has the pursuit of “safety” (for yourself or for your family members) kept you from pursuing God’s will for your life?

We live in a culture with a lot of expectations placed on parents: to fund college, new cars, insurance, etc. Have your efforts to provide comfort for your children prevented you or them from pursuing God’s mission? If so, confess this to God and ask for His strength to help you instruct them to follow God.

The cross is foolishness to those without Jesus (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:23). To live a life of sacrifice and service is foreign. Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow Him. As we saw in Luke, this is costly. Are you truly willing to abandon everything to follow Jesus? What are the things holding you back? Confess those things to God and ask Him to empower you to hold those things loosely.

Jesus, God’s Beloved Son | The Gospel of Mark
A New Family
Mark 3:31-35

Pastor Matthew R. St. John
Bethel Church
May 19, 2013

A New Family

Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew’s sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the “Write This Down” tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelcf.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 19, 2013

Mark 3:31-35

Quick Review: Pastor Matthew discussed the incident in Jesus' life where His mother and brothers questioned His state of mind. His zeal for His Father's mission was mistaken for madness. Jesus does not back down from calling men and women to abandon all in radical obedience to the gospel (cf. Mark 10:28-30). Many people today find their families to be at odds with their faith, but Jesus shares in our experience and invites us to be part of His family made up of men and women whose lives are marked by the pursuit of God.

My Story:

Below are common Christian practices. Mark each one based on how you think your parents have or might perceive your actions (1 being madness, 10 being on mission for God).

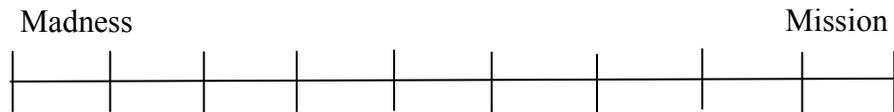
Child Dedication instead of baptism



Tithing



Overseas Missions



Uprooting grandkids to serve an inner-city (urban) ministry



Growing Deeper:

Read the following verses and describe Jesus's attitudes toward priorities:

Matthew 8:21-22

Mark 10:28-30

Luke 14:26-27

In Genesis 22 we read the account of Abraham when he was asked to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice. Read **Genesis 22:9-10** to see how Abraham responded.

Was Moses mad or on mission?

How could Moses really be capable of doing such a thing? (cf. Hebrews 11:17-19)

In your own opinion, what point was Jesus trying to make in **Mark 3:33-35**?

Remember the context of Mark. It was written to Christians who were being persecuted to the point of death, even the death of their own children. They are asking, "Is it worth it?" This is a radical call to discipleship.

Read Luke 14:28-33

Is there such a thing as a cost that is too high to pay for following Jesus?

Read John 10:10. In your own experience, what has made following Jesus worth the cost?