

Sermon Series:
BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES: SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

Sermon Title: Does That Make Me Crazy?
Preacher: Rev. Raphael G. Warnock Ph.D. – Senior Pastor
Bible Passage: Mark 3:19b-35
Date: September 17, 2023

SCRIPTURE

Then he went home,²⁰ and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.²¹ **When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.”**²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebub, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.”²³ And he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan?²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come.²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸ “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter,²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin”—³⁰ for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

³¹ Then his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him.³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers^[a] are outside asking for you.”³³ And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?”³⁴ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

SERMON NOTES

In today’s scripture Jesus is publicly “near the top of his game”. Yet, what He sought was to be faithful, not famous. Then he went home. Rev. Warnock observed that when we go home, no matter how much fame and acclaim, power and prestige we may enjoy in public, what we experienced in public cannot erase the problems we experience in private!

While in His home town, Jesus was pursuing his destiny, and the crowds gathered around Him. Hearing that people were saying He had gone out of his mind, His family came to retrieve and restrain him. Purpose, observed Rev. Warnock, is offensive to most people.

SERMON POINTS

1. WE ALL HAVE SOME CRAZY IN OUR FAMILY TREE. Some assembly is required in every family, marriage, relationship. The good news is that God supplies whatever is needed and required.
2. WE DON’T HAVE TO CONFORM TO THE CRAZY. God performs miracles. We don’t have to conform to “the crazy” in order to pursue our purpose or to recognize love when it appears.
3. GOD TRANSFORMS OUR CRAZY INTO A NEW CREATION. Jesus redefines family as those who do the will of God, in our lives and through us.

THE GOOD NEWS: God is with us and makes a way out of no way! Be “good crazy” enough to believe, trust God and love Jesus!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever had to deal with “craziness” in your family? How did you deal with that situation?
2. What does this sermon tell you about not conforming to craziness?
3. Share an example of how God has overcome “craziness” in your life?
4. Who has become your “new creation” family by doing the will of God in your life?
5. List three ways you can become a “new creation” family member before the end of 2023!