



Sermon Notes: “Redrawing the Family Tree”

Matthew 12:38-50

5.3.26

FALSE ASSUMPTION 1: PEDIGREE MAKES YOU FAMILY

1. **The Resurrection:** First, Jesus points to His resurrection.
2. **The Outsider Mission:** Second, Jesus is pointing to Jonah's mission.
3. **The Reluctant Prophet vs. The Willing Savior:** Third, Jesus is drawing a contrast between Himself and Jonah.
 - The greatest tragedy in this passage is that the people who should have seen Jesus clearest missed him completely.
 - The greatest spiritual danger isn't being too far from Jesus. It's being so familiar with him that we stop revering who He actually is.

1. What sign am I still demanding before I'll trust him?
2. Whose salvation have I written off?
3. Who do I relate to more: Jonah running from or Jesus running toward?

FALSE ASSUMPTION 2: REFORMATION MAKES YOU FAMILY

- A cleaned-up life without Christ is not a saved life.
- Reformation is not regeneration.
- Have you just swept your house clean, or have you actually handed Jesus the keys?

FALSE ASSUMPTION 3: BIOLOGY MAKES YOU FAMILY

- When you do what the Father wills, Jesus calls you family.

So What?

- Being sent isn't just about going. It's about belonging.
- Jesus doesn't just save people. He invites them into His family.

For Study, Reflection, Discussion During the Week:

Life Group ICEBREAKER: Think of a time when someone welcomed you in and made you feel like family. What happened, and why did it matter?

REVIEW:

Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? What was it and why did it resonate with you?

READ: Matthew 12:38-42

- Jesus confronted people who kept demanding more signs while ignoring what was already in front of them. Are there ways people today still do that with God? Have you ever done that yourself?
 - The sermon asked: “Whose salvation have I written off?” Is there anyone you’ve quietly assumed is too far gone for God to reach? Was that fair to assume? What should we do instead?
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READ: Matthew 12:43-45

- The sermon said, “A cleaned-up life without Christ is not a saved life.” What is the difference between behavior change and true heart transformation?
 - Why is it possible to look spiritually “in order” on the outside while still being empty on the inside?
 - Have you ever tried to fix yourself without fully surrendering to Jesus? What happened?
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READ: Matthew 12:46-50

- Jesus teaches that true family is defined by doing the Father’s will. What do you think that means practically in everyday life?
 - The sermon said, “Being sent isn’t just about going — it’s about belonging.” How does belonging to God’s family change the way we live on mission?
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DEPLOY:

1. Identify one place in your life where you’ve been acting like an attender instead of family. What step can you take this week to engage more deeply?
 2. Reach out to one person this week who may feel like an outsider. Show hospitality, encouragement, or invite them into community and fellowship.
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Don't Forget:

- Consider volunteering at VBS this year, June 8th - 12th talk to Shaun for more information
 - Graduation Sunday May 24th!
 - Cove Camp 2026 – Register using the QR code in the bulletin or go to our church website.
 - Meal Train - Consider volunteering to bring a meal to one of our church members in need. Find more information in the bulletin or on the church website.
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Prayer:

Father, thank You for not only saving us but welcoming us into Your family. Forgive us for the times we rely on religion, performance, or familiarity instead of true surrender. Fill every empty place in us with Your presence. Teach us to live as sons and daughters who belong to You and help us welcome others into the same grace we have received, through Your son.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.