

6-16-19 EVERYONE IS SOMEONE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, ESPECIALLY THE FAMILY – Genesis 48-49

Since May 5 our Sermon Series has been titled, “**EVERYONE IS SOMEONE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, ESPECIALLY _____**”.

- 5/5 ESPECIALLY OUR CONFIRMANDS & PEOPLE MAKING NEW EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH & TRUST IN GOD**
- 5/12 ESPECIALLY OUR MOTHERS & THOSE WHO NURTURE AND PROTECT US – EXAMPLE OF JOCHEBED ---- MOTHER’S DAY**
- 5/19 ESPECIALLY OUR NEIGHBORS & THOSE WHOM WE ARE CALLED TO HELP AS WELL AS BE HELPED -- THE GOOD SAMARITAN**
- 5/26 ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US IN LIFE & FAITH – WHO HAVE GIVEN US FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE - MEMORIAL DAY**
- 6/2 ESPECIALLY THOSE WHOM CHRIST HAS GRADUATED TO CARRY ON HIS WORK HERE ON EARTH – GRADUATION SUNDAY & ASCENSION SUNDAY**
- 6/9 ESPECIALLY THOSE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT – PENTECOST & KEITH’S ORDINATION**
- 6/16 ESPECIALLY THE FAMILY – GENESIS 48-49 -- FATHER’S DAY**

I’ve enjoyed preaching this series. It has reminded me of all the reasons that we at SHUMC, as a part of the Body of Christ, have a lot to be grateful, for a lot to celebrate, and a lot that we may do to bless our world.

In this series we have covered quite a few theological foundations of our Christian Faith:

- the basis & beliefs for Confirmation & Baptism;
- a look at how God inspired & led Jochebed to nurture & protect Moses – as God continues to inspire, lead, and protect us today;
- a reminder from the Good Samaritan that God gives us ‘our neighbors’ to serve and to be served;
- a reminder that we are in part, a product of those who have gone before us;
- as Jesus graduated his disciples to carry on his work, Jesus graduates us to be the hands & feet of Jesus; and
- the absolutely essential need & reality of the presence, power & peace of the Holy Spirit indwelling in our lives.

WOW --- friends --- we’ve covered a lot and we’ve had fun!

TODAY WE WILL CONSIDER HOW GOD HAS ORDAINED THE FAMILY TO BE HIS FUNDAMENTAL BUILDING BLOCK OF FAITH, LIFE, & SOCIETY.

THE “FAMILY UNIT” WAS INTENDED FROM THE BEGINNING TO BE THE BASIS OF LIFE HERE ON PLANET EARTH --- Genesis 1:27-28

The FAMILY UNIT is the THREAD used throughout the Bible to share God’s story for us from Genesis & Creation – thru the Gospels and into the days of Revelations. That is still to come.

3 POINTS FOR TODAY:

1. THE FAMILY UNIT IS VERY IMPORTANT – THEREFORE WE MUST NURTURE & PROTECT THE FAMILY
2. “BLESSING” IS VERY IMPORTANT – THEREFORE WE MUST BE DETERMINED TO BLESS ONE ANOTHER WITHIN THE FAMILY, ESPECIALLY OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN’S CHILDREN.
3. THE MODERN DAY “NATION” IS ACTUALLY ROOTED IN AND GROWN FROM THE CONCEPTS OF THE BIBLICAL FAMILY, TRIBE & CLAN

Skipping over Adam & Eve; Noah; Abraham and others --- let’s look at Jacob (Israel) near the end of his earthly life as told to us in Genesis 48 & 49.

TEXT & CONTEXT --- SETTING THE STAGE:

Genesis 46-47 --- ISRAEL (Jacob) & HIS FAMILY MOVE TO EGYPT

Genesis 48:3-4 Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and there he blessed me ⁴ and said to me, ‘I am going to make you fruitful and increase your numbers. I will make you a community of peoples, and I will give this land as an everlasting possession to your descendants after you.’

Genesis 48:5 – for purposes of inheritance, Jacob will consider Joseph’s sons as his own --- Ephraim & Manasseh

Genesis 48:8-22 -- Jacob’s blessing of Ephraim & Manasseh

12 Sons of Jacob:

REUBEN
SIMEON
LEVI (Aaron, Moses, Eli, John Baptist)
JUDAH (David, Jesus)
DAN (Samson)
NAPHTALI (Barak, Elijah)
GAD
ASHER
ISSACHAR
ZEBULUN
BENJAMIN (Saul, Esther, Paul)
JOSEPH

12 Tribes of Israel:

REUBEN
SIMEON
LEVI -- NO LAND
JUDAH
DAN
NAPHTALI
GAD
ASHER
ISSACHAR
ZEBULUN
BENJAMIN
** EPHRAIM
** MANASSEH

Genesis 49:26 “Your father’s blessings are greater than the blessings of the ancient mountains, than the bounty of the age-old hills.”

1. THE FAMILY IS VERY IMPORTANT TO GOD – TO SOCIETY --- TO THE WORLD --- & TO THE CHURCH
 - Our BIRTH FAMILIES
 - OUR CHURCH/SPIRITUAL FAMILIES --- FAMILIES OF FAITH
2. THE CONCEPT OF THE FAMILY BLESSING IS VERY IMPORTANT – EVEN WHEN IT IS NOT BY THE FATHER (Consider Samuel & Moses)
3. OUR MODERN NATIONS ARE ROOTED IN FAMILY
 - Actually, in both the Hebrew (*mispaha*) and the Greek (*genos & oikos*) the words translated for us today as ‘family’ are also translated as “nations” ; “people”; and “clans”.

Hmmmmm **How might this add to or change our understanding of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20?**

Matthew 28:19-20 “Therefore GO and MAKE disciples of ALL NATIONS (aka ALL FAMILIES), BAPTIZING THEM in the name of the FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT, and TEACHING THEM TO OBEY everything that I have commanded.”

- **Does the substitution of “FAMILIES” for “NATIONS” change the relevance or application of Jesus’ Great Commission?**
- Also --- NOTE THE REFERENCE TO THE TRINITY in this same context ...

NOTE: Today is **Trinity Sunday**, the first Sunday after Pentecost. Trinity Sunday celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. On Trinity Sunday, the Christian Church ponders with joy and thanksgiving what the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have done to accomplish our salvation. It is brought to remembrance how Christians should respond to the love God has shown us, praising Him and giving Him glory. We remember the Father as our Creator, the Son as our Savior and the Holy Spirit as our Comforter. Some think of the distinct roles of the Trinity as: **GOD ORDAINS; JESUS ACCOMPLISHES; and the HOLY SPIRIT APPLIES**. Today we celebrate God’s work that enables us to be a part of the **FAMILY OF GOD**.

QUESTIONS:

WHAT IS THREATENING & DESTABILIZING OUR FAMILIES TODAY?

WHAT IS THREATENING & DESTABILIZING OUR CHURCHES TODAY?

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

WHO IS YOUR CORE FAMILY --- FOR LIFE & FAITH?

WHO WILL BE YOUR SPIRITUAL OFFSPRING?

HOW CAN YOU BLESS YOUR FAMILIES? YOUR SPIRITUAL FAMILIES?

BOTTOM-LINE:

1. FAMILIES ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO GOD
2. FAMILY BLESSINGS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO GOD
3. PROTECTING & STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY – BOTH OUR NATURAL FAMILIES AND OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILIES ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO GOD --- HOW CAN WE DO BETTER?