

# Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Laurel Bunker continues the series on the Book of Mark, focusing on Mark 3:20-35. She explores Jesus' interactions with the scribes, his family, and the crowds, highlighting three key principles: a house divided against itself cannot stand, unity with each other requires unity with God, and God's people should be our people. The message emphasizes the importance of church unity, personal surrender to God, and prioritizing spiritual family over worldly connections.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us today. Help us to be unified as Your church, to surrender fully to Your will, and to prioritize our relationships with fellow believers. May this discussion draw us closer to You and to each other. Guide our conversation and help us apply these truths to our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you felt truly connected to someone else in the church. What made that connection meaningful to you?

## Key Verses

1. Mark 3:25
2. Mark 3:33-35
3. Galatians 5:13-16
4. Psalm 133:1

## Questions

1. Pastor Laurel emphasized that 'a house divided against itself cannot stand.' In what ways have you seen division impact the effectiveness of the church?
2. What are some practical ways we can promote unity within our church community?
3. The sermon mentioned that 'in order to be one with each other, we must be one with the One.' How does your personal relationship with God affect your relationships with other believers?
4. Jesus redefined family as 'whoever does God's will.' How does this challenge our traditional understanding of relationships and priorities?
5. Pastor Laurel talked about the importance of spending time alone with God. What practices help you connect with God on a regular basis?
6. The sermon addressed church hurt and disappointment. How can we heal from past hurts while still remaining committed to the church community?
7. What areas of your life do you find most difficult to surrender to God, and why?
8. How might our small group become more intentional about supporting each other spiritually and being 'God's people' to one another?

# Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you need to surrender control to God. Write it down and pray about it daily. Additionally, reach out to someone in our church family who you don't know well and make an effort to connect with them - perhaps invite them for coffee or send them an encouraging message. Let's put into practice the principle that 'God's people should be our people' by intentionally strengthening our church relationships.

## Key Takeaways

1. A house divided against itself cannot stand - unity in the church is essential for its effectiveness and witness.
2. To be unified with each other, we must first be unified with God through personal time with Him.
3. Jesus redefined family as those who do God's will, challenging us to prioritize our spiritual family.
4. Salvation is not just about being saved but about radical transformation from the inside out.
5. We must surrender fully to God's will, letting go of everything that hinders our relationship with Him and others.

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the powerful reminder that we are Your family when we do Your will. Help us to surrender completely to You, to prioritize our relationship with You above all else, and to love our spiritual family well. Give us the courage to let go of division, bitterness, and anything that separates us from You and from each other. May we be a unified church that stands strong against the enemy and shines Your light brightly in this world. Strengthen our bonds with each other as we walk together in faith. In Your mighty name we pray, amen.