

Daily Homily
25 Ordinary Time, Tuesday
22 September 2020
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Family in Jesus' day was crucial. It set up one's identity. Where you were born or where you grew up determined what kind of family you are. It is why Mary and Joseph had to go back to their family place of origin, Bethlehem. It is why Jesus was jabbed when they said, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Those two places defined his family origin and defined his family identity for better or worse. Neither place was filled with honors.

In the midst of ministry, the crowds are gathered to hear him preach. His family shows up – Mary and his "brothers," cousins actually (There are no words in Greek – the original language of Luke's Gospel – that speak of this type of family relationship, so everyone is lumped together in the "brother or sister" category). When informed that they are in the crowds and wish to see him, Jesus expands the definition of family.

Family goes beyond the city of Bethlehem and Nazareth, true family comes from the places of "hearing" and "acting." Hearing the Word of God; acting on the Word of God – this is family.

How does this definition help to shape your own family? How does this definition give your family identity? Are you living in Jesus' family by living from these two center points of the spiritual life? Are you living out of both hearing the Word of God and acting on the Word of God?