

This Week's Sermon: Divisions and Unity  
Pastor Sam Gyorfi  
6.11.2023

## Scripture readings during worship

### [Colossians 3:12-17](#)

**12** Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

**15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. **16** Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. **17** And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## Sermon Scripture

### [Mark 3:7-35](#)

#### **Crowds Follow Jesus**

**7** Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. **8** When they heard about all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. **9** Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. **10** For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. **11** Whenever the impure spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." **12** But he gave them strict orders not to tell others about him.

#### **Jesus Appoints the Twelve**

**13** Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. **14** He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach **15** and to have authority to drive out demons. **16** These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the

name Peter), **17** James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means “sons of thunder”), **18** Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot **19** and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

### **Jesus Accused by His Family and by Teachers of the Law**

**20** Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. **21** When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.” **22** And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.” **23** So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? **24** If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. **25** If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. **26** And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. **27** In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man’s house. **28** Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, **29** but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.”

**30** He said this because they were saying, “He has an impure spirit.”

**31** Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. **32** A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.”

**33** “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked.

**34** Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! **35** Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

**Themes:** We will have themes of divisions and unity this coming Sunday. What do we do when people disagree with us? Or think we are crazy? As disciples of Jesus, are we prepared for this?