

Mi Familia

"My mother and my brothers are those who hear the Word of God and do it" (Luke 8:21).

I grew up on chips and salsa from Mi Familia, a Mexican restaurant in the small town of Stamford, TX. In fact, there is a location not too far from here down in Brady, if you want to grab some tasty enchiladas. But besides the food, what does "Mi Familia" mean in Spanish? My family. And so, as I read Luke chapter 8 the other day in my English Standard Version of the Bible, I seemed to interpret it with a little Spanish spice. I thought to myself: "Who did Jesus say: 'Mi Familia' too? Who was Jesus looking at and saying: 'Now this is my family...' And who today would be considered by Jesus: 'Mi familia?'"

Within this historical scene in Jesus' life that the synoptic gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) record in their gospel accounts: The crowds were overwhelmingly flocking to Jesus, and Jesus' mother Mary and His siblings were trying to get close enough to speak to Him. Keep in mind at this point in Jesus' ministry, His own brothers did not believe in His claims to be the Messiah and Son of God (John 7:5). And we are told that as Jesus was made aware of their attempt and desire to speak to Him, He did the opposite of what we might expect from both a son and brother. Instead of running from the crowd and scrambling to see Mary and His siblings. You can picture maybe a warm hug for mom and a couple of high fives for the younger bros. Jesus instead used the occasion to teach a deep truth about God, His Word, and who is really considered "Mi Familia" in the heart of Christ.

First off, what Jesus was not teaching was that we are to treat our family wrongly and refuse to enjoy their presence. All throughout the Bible, there is a huge emphasis on the precious gift of family. Cherish and hug your family tightly; they are a gift from God. Jesus here did seem to be addressing the truth that His Messianic mission was of greater priority than anything else in all of life, even time with His family. This was a lesson that He lived out and spoke about more than once (Matthew 10:37-39, 19:29). It also seems that Jesus was hinting to the greater importance that is found in a spiritual relationship with God and His people, in comparison to the physical relationships that families have. In other words, there is something special and supernatural about your church family. Yes, they may not be your flesh and blood, but you do share the fact that Jesus spilled His blood to save you from your sinful flesh. And having been crucified together in the flesh in Christ Jesus, you together as brothers and sisters in Christ are to live in harmony and holiness in the power of the Spirit. Jesus' "Mi Familia" are those who hear the Word of God, seek to obey the Word of God, and by grace and for God's glory follow the will of God.

Does Jesus look at you and say: "Mi Familia?" Put your faith in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection on your behalf. Receive the adopting grace of the Father. And rejoice in the Holy Spirit that you are a part of the family of God.

*"I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God;
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
for I'm part of the family, the Family of God."*

Respect the Blood,
Dalton Mathis