

Reflection Questions: Luke 8:16-21

For the message, "The Family Likeness" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on November 24, 2019

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 8:16-21

16 "No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. **17** For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light. **18** Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away."

19 Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. **20** And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you." **21** But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

A summary of the message: "The distinguishing feature of the family of God is obedience to the word of Christ" (P. Ryken).

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- In verse 18, Jesus cautions us to "consider carefully how you hear" the message he proclaimed, that is the message of the Good News of the Kingdom / Reign of God coming in and through him. Then he connects the correct response to his message and his true spiritual family. What is the connection Jesus is making here? What questions or thoughts does this raise in your thinking?
- How does embodying the central truth of this passage help us become more fully and truly ourselves, the people God is creating us to be?
- Am I currently taking this truth seriously? If I really believed and held to this, how would things change? How would my life look differently?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- What comes to your mind when you imagine a group of Jesus' followers embodying this passage (hearing and living out the message of Jesus) in their neighborhoods and workplaces of our city?
- What are some ways we can encourage one another to be good hearers and good doers of the message of Jesus as we apprentice with Jesus in a new way of being human?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this text help us to see/ understand the kind of church we called to be for our city? What does this mean for us as we live out our faith in the city?
- What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience?