

Jesus and His Family

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Date: 18 November 2001

Preacher: The Venerable Daniel Gifford

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St. John's Shaughnessy Church St. John's socc afaragit first place we should look. It must be our foundation. That we encourage one another in Bible study to find ways to obey as we read. That we prepare ourselves as we come to a sermon by praying to God, Lord, show me how I should obey what it is that's being preached. How do we obey God's word this morning? And there's another aspect here, and I want to close with it.

We should be very thankful as we come to communion that Jesus has indeed brought us into his family forever. That is the gift of Jesus. But there is a description of that family that is radical.

[19 : 42] It means that we actually look on every new Christian and everyone new to our church as our brother and sister. That their obedience to Jesus means that we are related together to Jesus in the deepest possible way. And I think that that's an extraordinary thing, especially for a new Christian who often leaves their family, their set of people that are their support, and they are venturing into something very, very new. Being God's family means welcoming them as brothers and sisters. And so that responsibility of welcome and hospitality belongs to each of us very, very strongly because of this teaching. So that accountability to one another, that pushing each other to obey God's word so that we might have community, and also the welcome of those who we don't know and who are new Christians into the family of God are crucial to us and to our life as a family of God. It is in fact what Jesus was talking about when he said, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it unto me. Amen.

Thank you.

We hope that this message has helped you, and that you will share it with others.