

Esther and Emmett and a Family Circle... - June 6 2021

Emmett:(Emmett is looking down with his hand on his head, muttering) I'm so confused, I'm so confused...

Esther: Hi Emmett. It sounds like you're confused about something!

Emmett: Hi Esther...yes, I'm so confused...but not as confused as Jesus was!

Esther: Jesus was confused!

Emmett: Yes, and now I'm confused because Jesus was confused and I don't know if Jesus actually meant to confuse me so I'm even confused about whether or not I should be confused...I hope that wasn't too confusing!

Esther: (looks at Emmett for a moment). Now I'm so confused!

Emmett: Glad I could help with that!

Esther: Maybe it would help if you told me why you thought Jesus was confused.

Emmett: Jesus was confused about his family.

Esther: About his family...?

Emmett: Yeah...he wasn't sure which people were his brothers...or even who his mother was...maybe he just came from a big family and couldn't remember all of them? It's so confusing!

Esther: Are you referring to a specific story in the Bible?

Emmett: I sure am! There is a story of Jesus in a house talking to some people and his mom – her name was Mary, you know – and his brothers came and were outside. They told someone to go inside and tell Jesus that they were there.

Esther: I remember this story. There were a bunch of people sitting around Jesus listening to him, and they all started telling Jesus, "Your family's here. Your mother and your brothers are outside, and they want to see you."

Emmett: 'Your mother and your brothers' – 'Your mother and your brothers'! That's pretty clear. It's not 'somebody's mother and brothers are here'. It's 'Jesus, YOUR mother and brothers are here.' Who was outside wanting to see Jesus?

Esther: His mother and his brothers.

Emmett: Right. And then Jesus seems to be confused...which is what confuses

me. This story gets confusing.

Esther: Because Jesus says, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"

Emmett: "Who are my mother and my brothers?' How could he not know that?

Esther: I don't think Jesus was saying that he didn't know...

Emmett: Everyone else knew who his mother and his brothers were. They were the people standing outside wanting to see Jesus...I'm so confused.

Esther: Well, of course Jesus knew that the people outside were his mother and his brothers!

Emmett: Of course he should have known...wait...what did you say?

Esther: I said that 'of course Jesus knew that the people outside were his mother and his brothers!'

Emmett: How can you say that? I'm so confused!

Esther: Jesus never said that they weren't his mother and brothers.

Emmett: Of course he di...what do you mean? Don't tell me that this is 'another' of those Jesus moments, when he seems to say one thing but he really means something else?

Esther: When people tell Jesus that his mother and brothers are outside, he never says, "They aren't my mother and my brothers."

Emmett: Well...okay...I guess he doesn't. He says, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ...I'm still confused.

Esther: Before anyone can answer Jesus' question, he answers by pointing to everyone around him and saying, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" 'You are all part of my family.'

Emmett: So his mother and his brothers were his mother and his brothers...but all the people around him were also his mother and his brothers?

Esther: Yes. Jesus says to them, "Whoever lives the way that God wants you to live, is my brother and my mother."

Emmett: Well, God wants us to live by loving everyone! So, Jesus loved his family but to him, everyone was family so he loved everyone?

Esther: We are all children of God, so we are all part of God's human family.

Emmett: So, Jesus wasn't confused. He was making the family circle bigger!

Esther: Yes. We love our mothers and fathers and sisters and brothers, but we also love everyone else as our family in God's love.

Emmett: I certainly feel less confused now!

Esther: Well, amen to that!

Emmett: Amen