

## Thoughts on the Daily Word

*2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Year. Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Readings: 2 Samuel 1;1-4,11-12,17,19,23-27; Psalm: 79; Gospel: Mark 3:20-21.*

Mark's Gospel is usually considered the first and most primitive. In other words, perhaps closest to not only the time of Jesus but also reflecting the experience of the primitive Church. Mark seems to see the division between Jesus and his family as a reflection of the experience of the first Christians, especially those in the gentile world. Separation from the Jewish community left these first Jewish Christians experiencing isolation and perhaps desolation.

Remembering that in the ancient world family was everything, even life itself. The divisions are there in the story of the death of Saul, but we have in the story today an attempt at healing the divisions. David laments the death of Saul, it may be true, but David has weakened Saul through his divisions. The story is attempting to reunite Israel under David's leadership, sadly, it will not last long after the death of Solomon his son.