

## **Mark 3:31-35**

### **Jesus' Family**

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## **Introduction**

The nation of Israel was filled with the news of the things that Jesus was doing. It was also clear that the religious leaders had rejected Him. As news reached His family, they were concerned for His wellbeing. We saw that the demands of ministry had grown to the point that it was difficult for Him to take the time to partake of life's necessities like eating. His brothers concluded that Jesus "was out of His mind." These brothers did not understand Jesus' purpose, so they decided out to get Him and bring Him home before something terrible happened. When they arrived and Jesus was informed of their presence, He made a shocking claim: there is a greater family existing than the human family—a family that has supremacy over blood relationships. It is the family of God, the family of all those who do the will of God.

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## Mark 3:31-35

Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. <sup>32</sup> And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You.” <sup>33</sup> But He answered them, saying, “Who is My mother, or My brothers?” <sup>34</sup> And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! <sup>35</sup> For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.”

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## Jesus' Earthly Family

Mark 3:31-32

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Having left Nazareth to find Jesus (v. 21), Jesus' mother and His brothers finally arrived in Capernaum. In light of the fact that Mary believed in Jesus, her coming was likely motivated by a desire to protect her Son from the crowds and the religious leaders. Jesus' half brothers, however, were convinced He had lost His mind. They came to rescue Jesus from the massive crowds that threatened to smother Him. They likely intended on taking Him back to Nazareth with them.

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**"Standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him."** Inside, Jesus was addressing a **"multitude"** that **"was sitting around Him"**, when they said to Him, **"Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You."**

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## Jesus' Earthly Family

Mark 3:33

But He answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?"

Accepting the interruption, Jesus responded in a way that was utterly unexpected and must have surprised those who heard Him speak. Answering them, He said, **"Who is My mother, or My brothers?"** Jesus' question was not born out of ignorance, since He obviously knew the identity of His earthly family members. Nor did it intend any level of disrespect or antagonism toward His mother and brothers, whom He clearly loved (cf. John 19:26–27). Jesus simply used this real-life interruption to teach a transcendent spiritual truth to His followers who were gathered around Him.

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## Jesus' Eternal Family

Mark 3:34-35

And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! <sup>35</sup> For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."

Answering His own question, Jesus looked about at those who were sitting around Him and said, "**Here are My mother and My brothers! <sup>35</sup> For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.**" The Lord's point was that the only relationship to Him that matters eternally is not physical but spiritual. His spiritual family is comprised of those who have a saving relationship with Him through faith (cf. John 1:12; Rom. 8:14–17; 1 John 3:1–2).

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As He earlier explained to Nicodemus, it is not earthly birth that makes one part of the family of God but being born from above (John 3:3–8). Unlike the scribes and Pharisees, who resisted and blasphemed the Holy Spirit by rejecting the Son of God, genuine disciples are careful to do the will of God by honoring Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (cf. 1 Cor. 12:3). As Jesus explained in John 6:40, "**And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.**"

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Mark stated in verse 21 that some of Jesus' family members regarded Him as a lunatic. Meanwhile, members of the religious elite regarded Him as a liar, accusing Him of being in league with Satan. But the followers of Jesus, those who belonged to His spiritual family, embraced Him as their Lord. They obeyed the will of the Father, which is that sinners would believe in the Son to whom the Holy Spirit bears witness and receive eternal life (cf. John 3:16; 15:26; 16:13-15).

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The eternal destiny of every person is determined by what that person does with Jesus Christ. Those who ultimately regard Him as either a lunatic or a liar will spend eternity apart from Him in hell. But those who do the will of God by embracing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are promised eternal life in heaven (Rom. 10:9). There, as members of the family of God, they will worship their risen King forever.

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## So What

Jesus was not saying that family is not important. The Bible clearly teaches the importance of marriage and the family relationship. What is important is moving these relationship into the eternal. This is the main aspect of parenting. Proverbs is filled with the importance of passing God's wisdom from generation to generation.

None of us are perfect parents and children have a mind of their own. However, we must do our best to hear God's word, teach God's word, and to so its importance by living it out in our day to day lives.

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## So What

It is also important to remember who you are! When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are adopted into the family of God (Eph 1:5; Gal:5-7; Rom 8:15). You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise (Eph 1:13-14; 2 Cor. 1:22). You can boldly enter into God's presence, calling Him Father and pour out your heart to Him (Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6). Where our earthly relationships are temporal and fleeting, our heavenly relationships are eternal. The church is an earthly picture of the eternal. We are family.

Let me encourage you to pray and find ways of moving our earthy relationships and friendships into our eternal family.

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