

**The Family Of God**  
 Mark 3:31-35  
 September 21, 2025  
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*<sup>31</sup> And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup> And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." <sup>33</sup> And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" <sup>34</sup> And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."*

The title for today's sermon is "The Family Of God".

As a follower of Jesus Christ, have you wondered who needs the Gospel the most?  
 Or who do you think can be impacted the most by your faith?

It is your own family. Children. Spouse. Siblings. Aunts. Uncles. Grandparents. They all need Jesus.

It's very easy to overlook the fact that some of your family members desperately need the Gospel. The world needs the Gospel for sure but what an opportunity you have to be a Gospel witness to your own family.

Today, we see Jesus responding to a request from his own family. And in his response, Jesus teaches and defines for us what the family of God looks like. It is not what you might expect.

To give you a context, we are in the Gospel of Mark – looking at the life, death and resurrection, the ministry and the teaching of Jesus Christ.

And last week we saw that Jesus, after appointing his twelve returns home. This was Capernaum. Nazareth was Jesus' home town but Capernaum was his ministry home. And there at the house in Capernaum, a crowd gathered to see Jesus. And we also saw two other groups, wanting to see Jesus.

One group was the Pharisees who accused Jesus of having an unclean spirit or a demonic spirit. So, Jesus called the scribes and Pharisees that the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit was an unforgivable sin. We covered that message last week.

There was another group. That group was Jesus' own family wanting to see him. They see Jesus busy ministering to the crowd that they did not have time to even eat a meal. And the mother and the brothers of Jesus thought he was out of his mind. They even wanted to take him by force, seize him or grab him. (Mark 3:21).

This is where our passage begins.

Let's look at verses 31 and 32.

<sup>31</sup> *And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him.* <sup>32</sup> *And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you."*

Imagine the plight of the mother and his brothers. They, very likely, traveled from Nazareth to see him. But when they get there, the house was so packed that they can't even get into the door. So, what do they do? They send a message to call him. And the crowd received the message. And they likely interrupt his teaching and deliver the message. Notice what they say to Jesus? *Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.*

Why were they *seeking* Jesus?

1. To rescue Jesus from the crowd? Probably. The crowds were always after Jesus. Most of them to get a freebie from him. Some to kill him. A few to learn from him. It's not wrong to be concerned for the safety of a family member.
2. To give Jesus a meal? Maybe. Surely, they were concerned Jesus did not eat a meal. Any mother would be concerned for her son if he hadn't eaten.

We are not told why they were seeking Jesus. But we know what they did NOT seek him for.

They did not seek Jesus because they wanted to *hear* his teaching or the Gospel.

They did not seek Jesus because they wanted to sit down, like the rest of the crowd who came to be *ministered* by him.

They did not seek Jesus, like his disciples, who wanted to be *taught* and *disciplined* by him.

They did not seek Jesus because they were seeking God's will. They knew God in their Jewish religion but not this family member as God in the human form – Jesus of Nazareth. We know from that "No one seeks for God" Romans 3:11

So why were they seeking Jesus? They were seeking Jesus for themselves.

They were seeking Jesus because they thought they felt *entitled*. They were seeking him because they had a sense of *contempt* and *disdain* for Jesus.

How do we know?

- First thing you see is that they were outside trying to summon Jesus.
- The Gospel of John 7:5 tells us that his brothers were not even believers.
- At least Jesus' mother, Mary knew something about Jesus. She was told before Jesus was born that "*the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God*". Luke 1:35. So, Mary raised the boy Jesus in Nazareth. The parents took Jesus to the temple in

Jerusalem every year. Jesus worked with his father in stone masonry. But here Jesus is not a child or a teenager. Jesus is at least thirty years ago. Mary should have known better.

And some of you may remember what Jesus' mother told him at a wedding - *When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."* John 2:3. And how does Jesus respond? *And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."* John 2:4. Mary thought Jesus was there to fix stuff for others, attend to every day matters but not for the Gospel.

Jesus knew about the contempt and unbelief he would face from his own family.

In Mark 6:4, Jesus said, *"A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household"*

In Matthew 10:45, Jesus sounds even harsher *"And a person's enemies will be those of his own household"*.

So, in this sense, Jesus' own family members are enemies of the Gospel.

Now Jesus did not hate or teach to hate his enemies. Instead, Jesus taught to love even your enemies.

Here is the point of this verse (32): Jesus' family did not fully believe in who he was until after his death and resurrection. (You'll see in the Bible that Jesus' brother James wrote an epistle and calls himself a slave of Jesus Christ in this introduction. He was converted later).

*Do you think Jesus came to preserve his life, or to be served, or to fight for his rights, or to be applauded, affirmed and appreciated by people?*

This is where his own family got Jesus wrong. At least at this moment.

Jesus came to give his life away. To preach the Gospel. To forgive sins. So that by giving his life away, you and I can experience abundant and eternal life.

*"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"* Mark 10:45

And Jesus' calls his disciples to do the same.

*"Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it."*

Luke 17:33

So Jesus knew why they were seeking him.

*And how does Jesus respond?*

Look at verses 33 through 35.

<sup>33</sup> And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” <sup>34</sup> And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

Notice who Jesus addresses. Those who were seated around him. They needed to be taught too. Now, we don’t see who Jesus has in mind when he says, “here are my mother and my brothers” Remember, the mother and brothers are waiting outside. And Jesus says, “here is my family”. Who does Jesus point to?

We have to look at Luke’s and Matthew’s Gospel for clarity.

Luke 8:21 But he answered them, “*My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.*”

Matthew 12:49-50 And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “*Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.*”

To unpack the Jesus’ response, I would like to answer three questions.

*How do you become part of God’s family?*

*How do you remain in God’s family and for how long?*

*How do you know you are in God’s family?*

*How do you become part of God’s family?*

You become part of God’s family by doing God's will.

Notice Jesus says, “whoever does the will of God,..”

What does Jesus mean?

We get a clue from Luke 8:21 “*My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it*”.

Jesus’ family was not there to hear him. They were not there to do God’s will.

Doing the will of God has to do with hearing the Gospel and responding in faith.

Doing the will of God is to acknowledge that you are a sinner in the sight of God, that you deserve the wrath of God, and then humbling repenting of your sin, and putting all your trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord who died for your sin.

So, doing the will of God is to be born again, to be saved from the judgment of God, to have eternal life and experience the joy and peace of God.

In the Gospel of John 6:40, Jesus said, *“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”*

Jesus said in *Matthew 7:21* *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*  
You see Jesus does not care about lip service. He cares about heart intent.

Have you looked at Jesus Christ? Have you believed in Him and repented?  
Now this belief comes by supernatural intervention.

*The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people<sup>l</sup> did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

So you become part of God’s family by God’s provision and your response.

*How do you remain in God’s family and for how long?*

By staying in God’s will. You stay for forever.  
Jesus taught his disciples in John chapter 15.

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing”* John 15:2

Once you become of God’s family, you don’t try to remain by your own strength but being united with Jesus Christ.

*How do you know you are in God’s family?*

1. By hearing and obeying word of God.

*“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* James 1:22.  
Those merely hear and never have a desire to obey God’s word were never part of God’s family. For those who have been born again into the family of God the test is whether you desire to obey God’s word. Because that is the only way to know if one is part of God’s family. All others are outsiders.

It is ironic that Jesus’ family is outside but those outsiders – tax collectors, fisherman, zealots have now become the family of God.

2. By being renewed in your mind. Romans 12:2
3. By pursuing holiness and abstaining from sexual immorality. 1 Thessalonians 5:18
4. By not living for human passions. 1 Peter 4:2
5. By being willing to suffer for doing good. 1 Peter 3:17

True spiritual relationships are not defined by birth or by blood but by common allegiance, loyalty, commitment, faithfulness, duty to the will and purpose of God.

Are you in God's family? Do the will of God. Look at Christ. Believe in Christ. Turn to Christ. Remain in Christ.

----- Discipleship Questions-----

MESSAGE SUMMARY: The Family Of God. Mark 3:31-35

HEAD: These questions help you examine the truth of God's Word.

1. What is the will of God according to Mark 3:35? What are its blessings?

HEART: These questions help you wrestle with what you believe.

2. How can you be assured that you are in the will of God? Go around and share.

3. What is God convicting you of and to believe in light of this message?

HANDS/HABITS: These questions help you bring the truth into your everyday life and develop behaviors that change your habits.

4. For personal reflection: What will you do make God's will known to others?