

Mark 3:20-35—True Kinship

I. Context

- a. Jesus' ministry in Galilee gaining traction and a variety of responses
- b. Family honor important in eastern cultures; Jesus may be risking that
- c. Teachers of the law confrontation (vv.22-30) bracketed between Jesus' family scene; common Markan technique

II. Misunderstanding Jesus' Mission (Vv. 20-21)

- a. Family's concern: *he's out of his mind*
 - i. Come to take charge of him; showing lack of understanding about the nature of His ministry and purpose.
 - ii. Sometimes, those closest misunderstand one's calling when it doesn't fit their expectations.
- b. Jesus' mission was not about fitting into worldly or familial norms but bringing God's Kingdom (bigger mission than just being a family person).
- c. Family is important to God's natural order; but it can be an idol and family relationships can hinder God's kingdom work

III. The Opposition of the Religious Leaders (vv. 22-30)

- a. The Accusation of Blasphemy (v. 22):
 - i. The scribes from Jerusalem accuse Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul (Satan).
- b. Jesus' Response (v. 23-30):
 - i. Jesus responds with a series of parables, explaining that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand (v. 24-26).
 - ii. He challenges their logic: Satan cannot fight against Satan.
 - iii. "All sins will be forgiven, except the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit" (v. 29). This is a severe warning about rejecting God's work and the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. Opposition to Jesus often comes from misunderstanding or rejecting the work of God.
 - 2. The unforgivable sin is not an isolated act of sin, but a continuous rejection of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

IV. True Kinship According to Jesus (vv.31-35)

- a. Jesus' mother and brothers arrive and stand outside, sending for Him.
- b. Jesus reinterprets what family means—not simply those who share biological ties with Him, but those who do the will of God (shared mission).
 - i. "Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother" (v. 35).

V. So what?

- a. Christians need to balance biblical precedent to care for family and not allowing family to become an idol and hinder our faith
- b. The call to follow Jesus is a call to belong to a new, spiritual family that transcends biological ties. There is a real sense of kinship within a church family. (This has implications on attitudes towards singles in a church).