



A BETTER WORD

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

A Study Through the Life of King Jesus | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

The True Family of God

Mark 3:7–35

THE BIG IDEA

Proximity to Jesus does not guarantee faith in Jesus. Faith in the Son of God and doing the will of God are what show you belong to his family.

SERMON SUMMARY

Your family shapes your identity and sets your trajectory more than almost anything else — and in Mark 3, Jesus tells us who belongs to his family. Watch how people respond. Crowds press in from every direction, desperate simply to touch him. Demons name him correctly and refuse to bow. His own mother and brothers come to seize him because they think he has lost his mind. And the scribes make the most sinister accusation of all: that his power comes from Satan.

Jesus dismantles that charge on its own terms. A kingdom divided cannot stand, and only a stronger man can bind the strong man and plunder his house — which is a picture of what salvation actually is. Then comes the warning about blaspheming the Spirit: calling the saving work of God the work of the devil. And finally the question. Who are my mother and my brothers? Jesus' shocking answer: not necessarily the ones standing outside claiming him. "Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Trace the responses to Jesus here: the crowds (vv. 7–10), the unclean spirits (v. 11), the disciples (vv. 13–19), his family (vv. 20–21), and the scribes (v. 22). What does each group get right, and what does each still lack?
2. Mark interrupts the story of Jesus' family with the story of the scribes, then returns to it. Why arrange it that way? How does the way Jesus answers the scribes shape the way he answers about his family?
3. Jesus calls himself the stronger man who binds the strong man and plunders his house (v. 27). What does that allegory teach about what happens in salvation? How does Colossians 1:13 describe the same rescue?
4. Verse 28 is stunning good news: all sins and whatever blasphemies will be forgiven. Verse 29 names one exception. Given verse 30, what is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? How does Isaiah 5:20 help you understand it?

5. Doing the will of God does not save you — faith in Jesus does. But obedience is the evidence that faith is real. Where might you be relying on proximity: upbringing, attendance, association instead of obedience? What is one act of obedience you have been avoiding?

LIVING IT OUT

There is a warning here, and there is wonderful news. The warning is that you can be near Jesus your whole life and still not be in his family; his own relatives proved it. The good news is that the barrier to entry is not your past, your blasphemies, your ethnicity, or how dysfunctional your earthly family has been. Anyone who believes and obeys is given permission to walk in and find a perfect Father.

Heart Check: Do you simply know who Jesus is, or do you follow him as your king? If your assurance rests on a childhood memory or a Sunday habit rather than present surrender, are you willing to say that honestly to God?

This Week: Name one instruction from Christ you have been treating as optional, and obey it this week — perhaps a relationship to reconcile, a habit to end, or a confession to make?

REFLECTION & PRAYER

“Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

— **Mark 3:35**

Ask God to show you plainly whether you are merely near him or truly in him. Thank him that the family of God has no impossible barrier to entry, and ask for courage to obey what you already know.

Your Prayer:

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