

Mark Part 7 - "The Family of God" (3-23-25)

Main Text: Mark 3:7-35 (Through the end of Chapter 3)

Introduction

The people around Jesus - Curious, Needy, Hating, and Questioning. Also - Partners in Ministry, True Family

Jesus - Sees much need and skepticism. He prayerfully identifies those who will be with him, serve alongside him, and be sent on his behalf to minister. We see the opposition and accusations. We see his clarity on who is truly his "family" and where he puts his focus - investing in those who are committed to doing God's will, and empowering them to minister the Gospel. He takes men from all backgrounds and even risks betrayal.

1) Jesus and the Crowd

Mark 3:7-12 (ESV)

[7] Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea [8] and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. [9] And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, [10] for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. [11] And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." [12] And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

- People coming from all over / large crowds "crushing" in
- Jesus withdrew with his disciples, but a great crowd followed
- Unclean spirits recognized him as the "Son of God," but he silenced them

Mark 3:20-22 (ESV)

[20] Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. [21] And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind." [22] And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons."

- Skepticism and pushback from both external enemies (the scribes) and his own family
- Scribes assigned his power to demonic possession, blaspheming & denying the presence of the Holy Spirit

Mark 3:23-30 (ESV)

[23] And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? [24] If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. [25] And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. [26] And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. [27] But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. [28] "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, [29] but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" — [30] for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

- Jesus calls out this contradiction, and then calls them to examination of what they are really doing!
- The "eternal sin" - Blaspheming the Holy Spirit (rejecting Him as He points us to Christ)

Those Crowding around Jesus: The crowd - curious and the needy, the scribes - accusing and opposing, His "family" - questioning Him and even His sanity. The Scribes even labeled Him - "demon-possessed"

2) Jesus calls The Twelve (Disciples/Apostles)

Mark 3:13-19 (ESV)

[13] And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. [14] And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach [15] and have authority to cast out demons. [16] He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); [17] James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); [18] Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, [19] and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

- Jesus gets away from the crowd “all night in prayer” (Luke 6:12) and then selects the 12 apostles
- **vs 13** - “desired”: To will, wish, desire, chose, implying active volition and purpose. to have in mind, intend, By implication: it means to be disposed or inclined toward, delight in, love
- Purpose of Apostles: With Him, Sent to Preach, given Authority to Free and Heal

The Twelve: are doubters, deniers, skeptics, political zealots, Roman sympathizers, fishermen, tax collectors, thieves, and betrayers / all of whom ran and abandoned him on the night he was betrayed to his death.

The 12 Apostles (Disciples): Variations of their names are used in the Gospels

1. Peter / Simon
2. Andrew (Simon-Peter’s brother)
3. James (Son of Zebedee)
4. John (Son of Zebedee)
5. Philip
6. Bartholomew / Nathaniel
7. Matthew / Levi (tax collector / Son of Alphaeus)
8. Thomas (who doubted)
9. James (son of Alphaeus, possibly the brother of Matthew/Levi, who is also of Alphaeus)
10. Judas / Thaddaeus (not Iscariot, “of James,” perhaps either son or brother of James, son of Alphaeus)
11. Simon the Zealot (Zealots wanted to overthrow or cast off Roman rule, willing to do this by force)
12. Judas Iscariot (the one who betrayed Jesus)

3) Jesus and the Family of God

Mark 3:31-35 (ESV)

[31] And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. [32] And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” [33] And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” [34] And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! [35] For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

- Jesus understood the full implication of **God’s Kingdom** and the nature of our Eternal Family.
- The **Family of God** are those committed to doing **God’s will** above all else.
- God is our Father. We are his children and, therefore, united as brothers and sisters.
- Jesus understood and took this seriously; do we?

Conclusion: What can I learn about Jesus from this passage? He sees all people as they are. He listens to God the Father and prayerfully commits his time to invest in those who are committed to do the will of God. What can I learn about myself from this passage? Who will I be?