

{The Book of Mark}

Sermon Series: Who is this man? [Sermon #13]

Sermon Title: Water is thicker than blood.

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Freak! Fanatic! Religious Bigot! You're crazy!
You're too serious about this Jesus stuff!
Has anyone ever called you any of those things? Anyone ever
insulted you for your faith? If not, why not?

If so, **blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely on account of Jesus. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. {Matthew 5:11-12}**

It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. {Matthew 10:25}

The audience to whom the book of Mark was written were Roman Christians in the 1st century.

We know that they experienced heavy persecution, social pressure, surely even from family and they faced horrible torture and death.

Jesus experienced everything that they went through. He experienced conflict, rejection from his hometown, countrymen, rejection and betrayal by friends and even from **FAMILY**.

In Mark 3, his family hears that he has returned to Capernaum and they head down there, probably from Nazareth, to rescue him from this crazy mess he's gotten himself into. He can't even eat bread because there are so many people around. And as we saw in chapter 2, he's been upsetting the religious leaders.

I. Family calls him crazy.

Look at **Mark 3:20-21**

20 Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they couldn't to even eat. 21 And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He's out of his mind."

In English we often use the phrase, "lost his mind" in joking to simply convey that we are surprised by something. They actually say that there's something wrong with him mentally.

Same phrase that is used in **Acts 26:25** when Festus the governor said to Paul, **"Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind."**

It's really not the main point, whether they think he's really crazy or just acting crazy. They think something is wrong enough with him that they come to take him away. **The main point is that they don't believe in him.**

Look at Matthew 13:53-58

53 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, 54 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?" 55 Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" 57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." 58 And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

John 7:5 says that **"Not even his brothers believed in him yet."** We assume that Mary was not in agreement with her other children. But we do know that she was human and had a sin nature and needed redemption too.

We know that later, his brothers and sisters **did** believe in him. The book of James is written by Jesus' half brother. {Galatians 1:19}

Acts 1:14 says that after the Resurrection, **“All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers and sisters.”**

But at this point, in Mark 3...they think he's crazy.

Now, it's important for us to see the structure of this passage so that we understand what is going on. This structure show us that perhaps another reason why his family objected to his activities is because it was disturbing the religious leaders....(Mark 2)..and could cause some backlash on them. They could've thought that he was hurting the family name....causing the family to lose face.

Verse 20-21 is about his family. They hear about what's going on and they start on their way. **“He's out of his mind.”** They're family but they don't get who he is.

Then we have this passage
in the middle about the scribes
saying **“He has an unclean spirit”**

They're the ones who know the scriptures better than anyone
but they don't get who he is.

Verses 31-35 his family finally shows up and want to see him
and Jesus gives us some thoughts about the privilege of those
who believe in him and do the will of God.

Let's look at verses 31-35 now.

II. His followers call Him family.

Mark 3:31 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 is building a new family. And oh...what a family it is. God is your Father. Jesus is your brother. Every believer is also your brother and sister. How can this be?

John 1:11-13

11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

I John 3:1-2

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

You believe that truth....and you're family might call you crazy.
You believe that truth....and you might be called possessed.

You may have experienced that the family of God is closer than your blood family; That 'water is thicker than blood.'

I'm sure we have all been through times when our earthly family let us down and hasn't been there or the bonds of our blood family haven't been close.

But brother Jesus and Father God and your other brothers and sisters have been there...taken care of you...loved you...

Questions:

1. **Are you in Jesus' family?** If you're not, today you can be. Believe in all that the Bible says about Jesus. Turn away from your sinful life and submit to Jesus as the boss of your life. He said all sins will be forgiven men....if they believe.....but if you reject the Holy Spirit calling you to Jesus...you'll be lost.
2. **Are you in need of some family care?** maybe you're trying to live life on your own without the family of God. You can't. You need a small group of people to live life with. To go deep with. Some of you come here on Sunday's but your life isn't connected to any others. You need that.
3. **Are you in need of some prayer and comfort?** Your earthly family thinks you're crazy. They don't believe. They don't understand. Jesus knows what you're going through. He went through it too. Pray for them. Jesus' brothers and sisters eventually believed. Keep praying. Don't give up praying and sharing. Get your kingdom family praying for your earthly family.