

## MARK: The True Family of Jesus

4.6.08

<sup>20</sup> Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. <sup>21</sup> And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind." <sup>22</sup> 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." <sup>23</sup> And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" - <sup>30</sup> for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit." <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> Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother." Mark 3:20-35 ESV

Primary Point: Mark continues to answer the question "Who Is Jesus?"

Secondary Points: Several principles, a profound truth about the true family of Jesus.

"his family...out of his mind" His family thinks he has lost it and is concerned.  
"scribes" Jewish scholars (lawyers), mostly Pharisees, experts on the law & appl.  
"possessed by Beelezebul" Jesus of being in league with the devil.

**P: Sometimes those who know us most understand us least.**

**P: People can be around Jesus all the time and still not get it.**

"enter the strong man's house" Jesus is stronger than Satan.

**P: Jesus has overthrown Satan and can forgive any sin—except one.**

"blasphemes the Holy Spirit...eternal sin" Hardness of heart, refusal to repent.

"Am I responding to the convicting work of the Holy Spirit in my life?"

"Who are my mother and my brothers?" Jesus answers their remark with a question.

**P: "Doing the will of God" means we correctly answer the question**

**"God, what do you want done in this moment?" with our lives.**

True in Two Ways (Just like last week's "Lordship of Christ"):

1. Overarching: (as in John 6)—believing in Jesus and becoming His disciple.
2. Moment by Moment: "Doing God's Will" in our lives / in given situations.

How Can We Know the Answer to that Question for Our Moments?

1. The Bible clearly tells us what God wants in *many* situations.
2. The Bible doesn't tell us what God wants in *every* situation.
  - a. Through His people, His Spirit, circumstances (open/closed doors)
    - i. but be careful here David/Saul in the OT. *Just because it is a good opportunity doesn't mean it is a God opportunity.*

How Can We Know God's Will on Things that *Aren't* Mentioned in the Bible?

1. **Again, it all begins with the Bible.**

- a. Stories + wisdom lit. Prov., Eccles., Song of Songs. "Life Rules"
- b. "Is this situation like a situation in the Bible?" (Again, be careful.)
  - i. "What did we learn about God and how He works?"
    1. Intuitive: Paul, cities / Counterintuitive: Gideon, army.
    2. What did God's appointed man/woman do in this situation?
- b. Biblical framework helps you discern other sources in the world.

2. **Remember some important things about God:**

- a. God wants us to know and do His will more than we do.
- b. God is a loving Father who wants the best for His Kingdom and us.
- c. God is sovereign—even over our sin and mistakes.
  - i. Even if you do what is wrong, God will not leave you and can use your misstep for His glory. We can rest in this!

3. **Cultivate your ability to listen to the Spirit. (*More on this in the future*).**

- a. "Eliminate the interference."

Principles for Decision Making "In the Moment:"

1. Pray that God would lead you to do what He wants done (Throughout!).
2. Enlist others to pray toward this same end.
3. Reflect upon and (rightly) search the Scriptures for clarity.
  - a. Remember the Bible is not an ouija board or 'code' to be cracked.
  - b. Does the Bible treat this directly/indirectly? If so, how?
  - c. Ask someone who knows them well if you are new to the Bible.
4. Seek wise counsel.
  - a. Start with people who love Jesus and you and know about the situation you are in. Recognize it is coming from fallible people and may not be uniform. Get enough but not too much.
  - b. Asking Unbelievers is permissible, but again, be careful.
5. "Count the Cost." -- Jesus (Lk. 14:28).
  - a. Make sure you can live with the decision. Have contingency plans.
6. Write out a Pro's and Con's list. (This will help some more than others).
7. Don't make any decision before you have to.
8. Recognize that 100% clarity may be elusive (leave door open for falleness).
9. Recognize that you cannot completely *eliminate* all risk from a given situation—but you can *minimize* it.
10. Make the decision and don't look back.
  - a. Jesus did not die so that you would be shackled with regret.

**Am I part of the 'true family of Jesus'?**

**Am I seeking the "Will of God" in all of my moments?**

Visit [www.crossinglouisville.com](http://www.crossinglouisville.com) for more helpful resources, including study guides on Mark.

Works Consulted: Expositor's Bible Commentary, Life Application Bible, MacArthur Study Bible, Messages by Steve Hart, Andy Stanley, RC Sproul