



**"HERE ARE MY MOTHER AND MY BROTHERS"**

MARK 3:20-21, 31-35

*A family intervention;*

**JOHN 7:5**

For not even his brothers believed in him.

**JOHN 9:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)

**MARK 8:38**

"For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

**For Jesus' earthly family, His reconstitution of true Israel was a step too far.**

*Good intentions, bad plan;*

**MARK 6:17**

For it was Herod who had sent and *seized* John and bound him in prison...

**MARK 12:12**

And they were seeking *to arrest* him but feared the people...

**MARK 14:1**

...And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how *to arrest* him by stealth and kill him...

**MARK 14:44, 46, 51**

<sup>44</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. *Seize him* and lead him away under guard" ...<sup>46</sup> And they laid hands on him and *seized* him...<sup>51</sup> And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they *seized him*...

*Jesus' sanity is brought into question;*

**ACTS 26:24**

...Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are *out of your mind*; your great learning is driving you out of your mind."

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:13**

For *if we are beside ourselves*, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

**MATTHEW 10:25**

*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.

**Has your sanity—or at least your wisdom—been questioned in relation to your devotion to God? If not, why not?**

*Once again, space inside is a premium;*

**LUKE 8:19**

Then his mother and his brothers came to him, *but they could not reach him because of the crowd.*

Mary, the graced but very human mother of Jesus;

**LUKE 1:38, 46-48**

<sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." ...<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant..."

**The contrast between those standing outside and those sitting inside.**

*Jesus will not allow even strong cultural and family bonds to interfere with His gathering and teaching of His people;*

**LUKE 9:59-62**

<sup>59</sup> To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup> Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." <sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

**Interfering with the best of intentions into the mission of the Messiah is still interfering.**

*While not lowering the bar of devotion to earthly families, Jesus raises the bar of devotion to our spiritual family;*

**MARK 7:11**

<sup>11</sup> But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban"' (that is, given to God)—

**LUKE 11:27-28**

<sup>27</sup> As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" <sup>28</sup> But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

**Jesus defines a new kingdom that is profoundly inclusive.**

**Jesus defines a new kingdom that is profoundly exclusive.**

*Jesus is **describing** those in His family. He is not **prescribing** the way one enters His family;*

**EPHESIANS 2:8**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

**MATTHEW 7:21**

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, *but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

*Jesus binds Himself to a weak and often faithless people;*

**HEBREWS 2:11**

For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. *That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,*

**EPHESIANS 1:5**

In love, he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

**Jesus will not be bound by bonds of creation. Instead, He will graciously and eternally give Himself to the bonds of re-creation.**

### **Discussion Questions for Midweek Bible Study**

Have you experienced a time in which friends or family believed that your devotion to Christ had gone too far? What caused this reaction? How did you handle it?

Seriously consider your priority of familial relations. Does your prioritization follow Jesus' hierarchy? In what ways can this be a very difficult command to follow?

Consider times in which friends or family attempted (or succeeded) in dissuading you from acting upon what you believed to be the will of God for you. How did you resolve the conflict?

Consider Mary's experience. Read the account of the Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-12), especially Jesus' reaction to Mary. What do you think these episodes are showing us?

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