

## *JESUS' FAMILY*

Mark 3:20-35 Text vs. 35 *"Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."*

Some days, Jesus just couldn't get away from crowds. He saw their needs were great. There were many who needed healing. Others needed to hear the Word. But He, also, needed food and rest. Spiritual conflict and dealing with demons were taking its toll. And it's important to point out as we begin, the reason Jesus' mother and brothers went to Capernaum was to take Him quietly back home to Nazareth because they thought He had lost His mind. He had been in Capernaum preaching and performing miracles with little rest and food for some time. There were so many people to hear Jesus and be touched by Him, that when His family saw that, our lesson says they wanted to take custody of Him and keep Him for a while until He came back to His senses. They were slightly embarrassed standing outside that crowded house asking someone nearer the door to call inside and have Jesus come out so they could talk with Him. Not unlike some families today who engage in intervention of their relatives in order to take them from the grasp of a cult or drug induced life and keep them safe until they can be convinced of the danger, then have them rehabilitated back into normal society. They were His family. They loved Him. They wished Him well. And they thought they knew what was best for Him.

So now, Jesus faced opposition from His own family, as well as from the Pharisees. The Pharisees had accused Jesus of being demonized. They had claimed Jesus was possessed by a demon named Beelzebub, which means "lord of the house" and refers to being king of the underworld. Beelzebub. The head of a demoniac mafia. The godfather who sat back in his big chair and gave orders to the rest of the little demons. They claimed that demon-controlled Jesus and was the one that ruled over the evil spirits. It was obvious to the Pharisees that Jesus was a man of supernatural power. But the problem was, they were unwilling to admit His power came from God. And there's little doubt these men knew He came from God. But their willful denial of truth had led to them committing *the unpardonable sin. Blasphemy.*

Blasphemy refers is an insult. It shows contempt, disrespect, and lack of reverence. Specifically, blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is when someone rejects the work of the Holy Spirit and attributes it to Satan. This sin is considered unforgivable because it keeps you from the source of conviction and repentance that leads to forgiveness. It involves a constant denial of the Holy Spirit's work, continually giving credit to the devil. While Christians need not fear committing this sin, understanding it points out the importance of recognizing and honoring the Holy Spirit's role in your life. By the Pharisees deliberately saying the work of Jesus was being done through the power of Satan allowed Jesus to respond by saying they had committed the "unpardonable sin." Committing the "unpardonable sin" hardens the heart of the person who commits it and turns a person away from God.

In Matthew 12:32, Jesus compared blasphemy against the Son of Man, that's how Jesus referred to Himself, to blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit could not be forgiven. *"Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."* So, when people "sinned against the Holy Spirit, they had reached 'the end of the line.' And Jesus pointed out, His family is made up of *"those who do His will."* Neither *'His own people'* (v. 21) nor *'mother and brothers'* (v. 31) take priority over the new family He had formed with the Twelve Disciples." (Edwards 118). C. S. Lewis said: *"You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman, or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool. You can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon. Or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God."* "The blasphemy Jesus was talking about comes from a determination on the part of those who do the blaspheming to do it." (Schubert 51).

And Christians today face rejection from a lot of things. Mark 3:25, says: *"If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand."* That's powerful! That verse stresses the importance of unity and harmony. Division weakens relationships between families, communities, and churches. Remember, just as Billy Graham taught, unity is essential for a strong and thriving community of believers. And the Bible highlights unity as a reflection of our relationship with God. Jesus prayed for unity among His followers. He emphasized Oneness as a testimony to the world. When believers are united, they function as one solid unit using their various gifts and abilities to work toward common goals. And unity serves as a powerful witness to the world. It demonstrates the power of the Gospel and the love that should describe Christians. When we love one another, and when we work together, we reflect Christ's love, and we draw others to Him. A unified Christian community can effectively fulfill the Great Commission given by the resurrected Jesus Christ to His disciples, urging them to spread the Gospel to all nations of the world. It serves as the foundation for evangelism.

When believers come together, they can make a huge difference in their communities. By sharing the Gospel, they make a difference in people's lives. Unity creates mission and purpose. Biblical unity is living in harmony with fellow believers. Rising above differences. Working together to advance God's kingdom. It's not about remaining in a perfect system of doctrines. It's about being united in love and having a purpose as a family, which is our text this morning. *"Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."*

Doing God's will is essential in the Christian faith. And Biblical unity is important because it means coming together in agreement with the Word of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us God wants His people to be unified as One. And when we come together as One in Biblical unity, it creates a powerful force for

good. When we are united in Christ, we can accomplish wonderful things for His kingdom. One of the most significant benefits of Biblical unity is that it promotes love and fellowship among believers. When we are united in Christ, we can focus on serving others and spreading the Gospel, rather than focusing on our differences. This kind of unity requires an unassuming nature. It requires a willingness to put personal preferences aside for the greater good of the family of God. Biblical unity plays a crucial role in evangelism. When the world sees believers are united in their faith, it shows Christianity is more than just a set of beliefs. It's a way of life. It's a community of people who love and support each other, despite their differences. They are a family! And this kind of unity is a powerful witness to the truth of the Gospel.

God wants a church where everyone is together in personal unity. And the way to achieve that unity is by being united under one banner. And there's no other banner that must be lifted higher in God's house than the banner of Jesus' name. There's power in being brought together in Jesus' name. And when we are united in Jesus, nothing we propose to do will be impossible for us. There's a story told about a traveler who got lost. And the further he went, the "loster" he got, until finally he pulled into a small town and stopped a farmer. "Excuse me sir, but I think I'm lost." The farmer responded, "Well, do you know where you is?" The man said "Yes sir. I saw the name of the town when I came in" "Well then, do you know where you want to go?" "Yes, I do" said the traveler, "Then you ain't lost. You just need some direction."

And that's our lives as Christians. We know where we are. We know where we want to be. We just need some directions on how to get there. So, where do we get those directions? Jesus had it all figured out. He knew where He was. And He knew where He was going. And He knew who was in charge. And that was the most important thing! He may very well have come to the place He said, *"Let this pass from Me,"* an emotional moment in the life of Jesus. It happened during His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, just before His arrest and crucifixion. Jesus was praying: *"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as you will."* (Matt. 26:39) *"this cup"* symbolizes the suffering, the agony, and the stress of His approaching crucifixion. Jesus, fully aware of the immense sacrifice ahead, expressed His human weakness and desire for another way. However, He submitted to God's will, which showed obedience and surrender. That moment highlights Jesus' dual nature—fully divine. And fully human. His willingness to endure suffering for the redemption of humanity showed His love and compassion. He was willing to say to God, "I trust you know what you're doing."

Can you say that? Listen to what Jesus said in John 4:34: *"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."* In fact, twenty-one times in the Gospels, Jesus refers to the *"one who sent Me"* for His directions. Now, let me ask you again. Where do you get your directions? You should be getting them from prayer. From the Bible. And from your family of believers knowing that *"Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."* Being in the family of God means being accepted for who you are: loved, appreciated, kept, and fully forgiven as a child of God. You have a sense of belonging and acceptance. And your confidence doesn't come from yourself. It comes from God your Creator. Jesus your Savior. And the Holy Spirit of the One True God. Through your faith in Jesus, you have become part of His Divine family and share spiritual unity as God's arms and legs on earth, spreading His love to all people by helping Jesus do the will of God who sent Him. AMEN