## **Title:** The Family of God: Whosoever Shall Do His Will

**Description:** In this Sunday morning message from Mark 3:31-35, Pastor Anthony Kim of Calvary Road Baptist Church steps with Jesus into the pain of a divided family. While His mother and brethren stand without and seek to take custody of Him, Jesus looks round about on those who sit about Him and says, Behold my mother and my brethren. He teaches that spiritual bonds forged by the new birth infinitely surpass natural ties, that those who leave house and kin for His sake receive an hundredfold now in the church family, with persecutions, and eternal life to come, and that whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is His brother and sister and mother. The message comforts saints whose adult children have drifted, whose spouses do not share their faith, or who have been rejected for Christ, and it invites the lost to be drawn into the family of God by the Good Shepherd who will never leave them orphans.

### **Transcript:**

Every true pastor carries a very persistent burden of his flock. In a local church like Calvary Road, those burdens are often etched deeply into the very faces of our older saints. Those adult children have drifted away from the faith. You've seen them grow up before your eyes and turn to the world or have walked out of the church family having nothing to do with Christianity. Burdens are carried by believers sitting across the breakfast nook from an unsupported spouse because you are pursuing the will of God or you're navigating the painful tension of siblings. Some of you have many siblings by God's blessing who treat the gospel with indifference or hostility. And let those things, as it's often a reminder to myself, we live in a fallen world. We live in a fallen world where the closest natural ties can be the greatest sources of our grief. Biological families designed by God were originally meant to be as it were a greenhouse. God told Adam, "Be fruitful and multiply." Be fruitful and multiply. It was intended not only growth in, of course, visible numbers, but growth in love. Think about that, right? Growth of love. That was the original intention of God our father. But yet because of sin now we are frequented by fractured spiritual division within our own home. And so we arrive in Mark chapter 3, verses 31-35. Our Lord Jesus Christ steps directly into the pain of a divided family. Standing before a crowd while his own biological relatives wait outside, Jesus clarifies who his true family is. And he declares this wonderful breathtaking eternal perspective of which his true family is part of which then brings the comfort

to those that have discomfort. Heals those that feel isolated in the moment and anchors every believer in Christ in an unbreakable spiritual household, the family of God.

So with that understanding, please stand out of respect for God's word as I read from Mark chapter 3 beginning in verses 31-35. "There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!" This is the word of the Lord. You may be seated.

I want to call your attention to the words without calling him and again repeated without seek for thee. In verses 31-32. The context of this passage is alarming to one that is caught off guard, but it also brings much clarity to those who are disciples of Christ who are sitting in the midst of this multitude and then on the outside perimeter his biological family of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So the setting reveals an intense spiritual tension going on just prior to that event or this event rather. Jesus had been disproving the dangerous slander of the scribes from Jerusalem who accused the Lord Jesus Christ of operating by demonic power. We saw that last Sunday morning. Simultaneously his own biological family arrived in Capernaum where he was in the house driven by a very different kind of concern. One of which they wanted to get custody of him because of the enemies as it were coming to get him. And so according to Mark's earlier account, Jesus' relatives had set out to take again custody of him because word had reached them that he was beside himself. Another translation puts it out of his mind. After all, we got to go back or rather go back. And we continue to see in the Eastern culture, they're very much tied down to the honor dishonor system. And so when you are dishonoring, you are dishonoring the whole family. And so his whole family, as it were, comes after him. And so overwhelmed by this massive crowd and fearing for his safety amidst the mounting threats from again the religious enemies, his family came to intervene and they sought to shield him and quiet down his public ministry. There were people filling and packing rooms wherever he went and he brings him back and they wanted to do this. They wanted to bring him under their family control. That was their intention. That was their goal of arriving at this time at this particular setting.

So let's focus on the word standing without Mark deliberately emphasizes their physical location. He helps us to come into the setting and kind of see what's going on in this in this room with the Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of the room. And he deliberately uses this word that his own family is standing without meaning outside the house. That's literally what is being said here. And they're outside the inner circle. The disciples the disciples of Jesus Christ who have been hearing the teaching and the preaching of the Lord Jesus Christ and they've been fellowshipping with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Although Mary again this is the virgin-born Mary which is the mother of Jesus and then his four brothers James, Joses, Judas and Simon: these are his half brothers and we actually see this mentioned in the book of Matthew 13:55-56 in fact not only are his four half brothers mentioned in this passage in Matthew 13 but it also mentions that he had sisters as well. I want you to remember that because he's going to be mentioned about his true sisters as well.

So the scriptures make clear that during his earthly ministry his half brothers did not yet believe on him and we see that in John 7:5. So they approached Jesus with this natural assumption believing that because they have biological ties with the Lord Jesus that they have been given a permission to interrupt his mission that is from God the father and then dictate his path away from the mission. This is what is going on in this particular setting.

And let me just share from a pastoral perspective, you know, as believers here at Calvary Road who experienced the heartache of unbelieving family members or again adult children who seem hopeful. Again, you've seen them grow up in this local body and you've seen them turn away from Christ. This text offers immediate clarity to you.

I remember me personally when I became a believer in Christ. I was immediately rejected and I had to actually move out of my house and live with my former pastor. And that was a very difficult thing to do. But you know what's even more difficult? I think about my brothers and sisters in Christ in the third world who often get martyred as soon as they're known that they're believers in Christ where they are disowned. They are they are literally taken away from the family and saying I never want to see you ever again. And some even report them to the police and they go to jail. I know people like that and I'm probably sure you know people like that as well.

So there are degrees of separation and you must have felt some of that if you still have unbelieving spouses or unbelieving children and adult children.

And this should bring immediate clarity when we go into the text where Jesus speaks about how to deal with a situation like this. And this is possible for those closest to us by blood to stand outside as it were that the reality of God's grace looking upon us that are devoted to Christ with misunderstanding, with alarm and disdain. How can you go this far with your time, with all your energy and even your money? Jesus himself experienced this painful detachment and will understand then your situation and the people that I mentioned that are suffering in this way for our savior and lord Jesus Christ.

You see, he understood this uncompromising, uncomprehending household, his own biological blood family. And he understands the deep grief of families that once was full of love and almost felt like there was this connection where we were going to stay together. At some point, a division occurred. And it has nothing to do with what you did, but what Christ did in your life. And they just cannot see the spiritual reality that you can see. He's opened your eyes to this reality that you will be separated. Not because you intentionally are trying to separate from them, but again, because your time and your devotion is now to the Lord Jesus Christ and doing the will of the father.

So let's now go into Mark chapter 3:33-34. He goes on, the Lord Jesus says he answers them, the brethren, I mean the multitude, and he says to them, "Who is my mother, or my brethren?" And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, "Behold my mother and my brethren!"

This is a rhetorical question the Lord Jesus Christ presents to the multitude and the message is relayed through the multitude the crowd his mother and his brothers and are outside seeking him. Jesus does not desert them in the moment but he stays. He doesn't validate their attempt to control his ministry. There's no family control here in this setting.

Instead, the Lord Jesus uses this very moment to deliver a spiritual lesson. He looks across the room, attentive faces seated around him. Everyone is looking at him right now because this question has been posed to him. All eyes are on him. And there are people that are just hungering to hear another word from him. And he poses this question instead. Not an answer but who is my mother or my brethren in Matthew's parallel account of this passage Jesus is said to have stretched out his hand toward his disciples and he was not dishonoring

his earthly mother nor was he setting aside the creation ordinance requiring children to honor their parents. Scripture testifies that Jesus cared for Mary even from the cross. Let me just read a text from John chapter 19:26-27. "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home."

You see, he honored his mother to the very end. You see, as a widowed mother, because the context shares that Joseph presumed deceased at this stage, fulfilled his familial duty, which is him being the eldest son out of the four. Jesus ensured that she was provided for before his death. Think about that. This account was put in for us that we are to honor our parents too. Even if they don't understand us or even if they understand us even more. Amen.

So this arrangement is widely understood as a direct act of a very practical very loving provision for grieving mothers as well as clarity on how we are to honor our parents.

You see rather than Jesus establishing this is only what I do as the Lord Jesus Christ. No, he shares this to all brethren. And what is he signifying? What is the supreme truth that he wants us to grab a hold of?

Going back to Mark, that spiritual bonds established by our new birth in the Lord Jesus Christ infinitely goes beyond natural bonds established by physical birth. I want you to get this truth at the end.

You see, Jesus looks at the gathered believers with all of their flaws, just ordinary fishermen, ordinary folks, and submitting to his authority. And he declares to them that you are my true family.

And we also see later in his earthly ministry, Jesus explicitly promised with these words in Mark chapter 10:29-30. Let me read this for you because when I can't wait to get there. Let's just put it that way. We're going to get there. But let me just bring out some things here in the text. Reading from Mark 10:29 and 30 says this. Says, "Verily I say unto you," or truly I say unto you, "There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

Here's what I want to share at this time. The meaning of this promise when Jesus promises that those who sacrifice their homes, the fields, that time it was a very agricultural environment, biological families for the gospel will receive an hundredfold now in this time. That's what I want to focus in on. He is not promising material wealth here. Or real estate prosperity. You're not going to have a bunch of now houses of investments. That's not what he's talking about here.

Instead, he is describing the radical hospitality, mutual sharing of things. And we see like in the book of Acts chapter 2 and this deep again spiritual bond that is infinitely beyond our biological ties that the early Christian community experienced.

So let me accentuate even more broaden your understanding of this truth because it's for our edification brothers and sisters in Christ.

You see, in the first century local church, they were not buildings like this. They were house churches. So when Jesus mentions about houses that you give up for new houses, he's talking about the reality that you're going to be part of a new community where people are going to open up their homes for you. Because before there was no cars, no trains, no airplane. Everything was traveled by foot. So from one destination to the next, if they didn't find a place to stay, they're going to have to stay homeless with no food, no water, no proper living arrangements. So you understand how the church grew organically. People were traveling from house to house to house to house. They can travel far because people are just opening up their homes. Nowadays, we got to deal with Airbnbs and pay all sorts of ridiculous fees and all those things. No food included, right?

See, they gathered in private homes of fellow Christians. This is what the Lord Jesus Christ was talking about. And therefore to be brought into this church community literally having access to dozens of new homes. That's how the gospel spread so quickly and so wide. Isn't that wonderful? That's the promise of Jesus. Not material wealth but spiritual wealth.

Then notice in the text that he doesn't mention, he mentions in the passage that you're going to give up your fathers, but he doesn't mention it in this side of our spiritual family. Why doesn't he mention fathers like he does before in the passage? Let me tell you, it's intentional. Because you see, we only have one heavenly father. We only have one heavenly father. And so reading about this within the local church community, leadership is shared among brothers

and sisters. Yes. But spiritually speaking, the church has only one father who is in heaven.

Let me read from you. Matthew chapter 23:9. Jesus said, "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven." That's the Lord Jesus Christ.

And then he goes on and says, Jesus adds a crucial caveat to this beautiful picture of the local church community that it includes persecution. And I want to just briefly talk about this. I'll go more into when I go into chapter 10. But you see in these homes and families, who are given with persecutions as I shared earlier in your introduction, we have brothers and sisters in Christ who have been rejected completely from their homes. It's still ongoing from this very thing that Jesus said that you will have persecutions.

So think about yourself right now. We have it pretty light. Would you not agree? You see, when we not just focus on our media situation, but really anchor ourselves to Christ's words, we have it pretty easy here in comparison.

And so, the community of the church provides deep comfort to those who are being persecuted, safety, and a shared economy because, hey, they lost their homes, they lost a place to stay rather they've lost food, a place to sleep. And now they need to be shared amongst brothers and sisters in Christ. And they were they were but they collectively shared in the suffering. Yeah, brother. Yeah, sister. I know I'm in the same situation. And you can share your burdens together. You can pray more intimately. You can really have that bond that is infinitely beyond our biological families because you share the most intimate things that our biological families will never get to experience and that's the suffering of Christ which receives eternal rewards.

You see this? This is who we are in Christ. And then he goes on. And he says, "Yes, you'll have persecution in the immediate, but he balances out with eternal life." Says, "Yes, you are going to deal with it in the immediate, but keep your horizon stretched out to eternity." Because in addition to present day restoration of the church community, that's a small picture of what we're going to experience in heaven. The promise that culminates in eternal life in the coming kingdom. So we got both good here and in the place in heaven.

So the local church is then designed by God by an authentic nurturing spiritual family. And for the older believer whose home is empty because some have departed into the world or his children are distant or for the

believer whose marriage is spiritually divided. Christ promises a deep living network of spiritually connected people within the local church and beyond.

And then we see now at verse 35. Verse 35, "For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother." Jesus establishes the definitive characteristics of his true family here. "Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."

Commentaries that I've read for this text reminds me and reminds you that Jesus is not teaching salvation by works here. So let me bring that to your attention regarding this text.

You see, obedience is not the means by which a person earns entry into God's family. Rather, obedience is the visible representation and the natural fruit of an already existing blood relationship that we have with the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as faith is the unseen root. You can't see faith. It's a root that is buried deep in the soil of God's grace. Practical holiness and obedience are then the very blossom, the aroma of the very flower and the fruit that bursts forth when the sun hits it.

We do not obey in order to become children of God. No, we obey because through faith, which is the first work, in Christ's finished work on the cross then produces obedience. Obedience is a fruit of salvation. Order is important.

Let me just kind of share with you a little more of this observation of our text in verse 35. And I want you to see it through the lens of the gospel accounts from Matthew, Mark, and Luke, which gives more illumination to our text here in verse 35. They record the exact statement here of the Lord Jesus Christ. But I want you to see how he tailor made or rather the gospel writers tailor made the expression to their original audience without altering the core meaning of the text.

So, Matthew writes to Jewish believers. He highlights in that particular text, my father who is in heaven, respecting Jewish reverence for the divine name Yahweh.

Then here in Mark, he's writing to Roman citizens who were used to direct commands, concise language, emphasizing devotion. They were hard workers. When they worked, they put their whole heart into it. They were dutiful and they knew to submit to supreme authority like Nero. And so they had that honor and respect for authority.

And then we go to Luke's account who writes to Greek individuals who are still Gentiles like the Romans but are of Greek sort. And he frames it that the hearing of God's word and then doing it appealing to the very culture that valued wisdom and practical application.

So, so why is this important? The audience is important to God and we are given why multiple different accounts of the same gospel message of our Lord Jesus Christ. The core meaning of the gospel is still essential to all of the four gospels, but the audiences are different.

So whether approaching through the lens of familial devotion or Roman duty or Greek wisdom, the very message stays unshakable, stays foundational. That a genuine child of God, this is the truth, that the genuine child of God hears the voice of the master, the Lord Jesus Christ, and then orders their life in subjection to his word.

Let me share with you in John chapter 10, verses 27-29. These are the words of Jesus. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

Such a wonderful passage that I must share with you. Context of meaning. My sheep hear my voice. Let's just start there.

This is a pastoral metaphor. This is in which I often go to in my time of devotion when I am praying for the flock here at Calvary Road. It's a real world situation of sheep that instinctively recognize and responds to a distinct call of their own shepherd rather than a stranger. You're not just listening from anyone. You are listening from the great shepherd, the good shepherd. And I am just an undershepherd sharing his truth to you. The thing that I'm to feed you is of utmost importance the word of God. And that's the key to this passage is that in this spiritual terms, true believers recognize and trust and heed the truth of Jesus Christ and turn away from strangers, those who are false shepherds who do not preach the word of God but preach their ideas.

So primarily scripture is then the primary teaching of shepherds.

And then he says, "And I know them." And I know them. That's a very intimate word here, very personal. And it's tied to relationship. That is a bond. That is the greatest kind of bond because in other texts, Jesus says, "I'll never leave

you nor forsake you." And so Jesus knows them. He knows your heart. He knows your struggles. He identifies with you with as a follower of Jesus Christ. He knows you to the deepest of your soul.

And then he says, "And they follow me." This is proof the authenticity of the relationship that you have in Christ that you not only hear his voice, but the result is active obedience in following him. That is the core message of discipleship that you hear his voice and you follow Jesus. That the path that he has set for you is for you and you alone. And that's why it's a narrow path where in which it is pointed to Christ.

And then he goes on and says, "And give them eternal life." This is regarding salvation here. That is an unending spiritual life. Life is being given to you when you're sleeping, when you're awake, at all hours, at all times. Is being given to you. It's unending and it's a free gift. Always grace granted directly by the Lord Jesus Christ by his own words that is never ever earned and is only maintained by his strength, his life.

And then he goes on they will never perish. That word never means never. Only Jesus can say that. Only God can say these absolutes. And here it's absolute assurance. You can have absolute assurance that will never be spiritual death in you and that there will never be separation in you from God. As he mentions from the father, no man shall pluck from his hand. And so then he says with great emphasis ends with God the father. This is the doctrine of eternal security is here in the text that I just shared with you which is extremely important because you have to stay anchored when you suffer. And this is the text to help you when you go through all sorts of trials and tribulations. Hear the words of Christ. Hear the words of Christ.

So now we go back to our text and I want to conclude here. We want to ultimately please the Lord in our lives and we can only do that by resting in him for all things pertaining to life in the immediate and of course in the eternal.

For the congregation that I preach privilege I have the privilege to preach every Sunday. I in my prayers I carry the heavy sorrow of those that are experiencing divided households that have estranged children or unsupported family members. I want you to know my heart. I want you to know that Christ is altogether lovely and he carries you. He understands you. And the only thing that helps me as a pastor is to trust in his promises just like you are. That I don't carry these things on my own.

The good shepherd carries them for me. That's a profound comfort that many pastors, this is the area that we have the most difficulty with because it's outside of our control. And that's why I have to say it's not me. It is all of Christ. It is all of Christ that sustains you. By his sustaining grace and by his promise, he will not let anyone pluck you out of his hand or his father's.

You're never ever going to be an orphan. He adopted you into the family of God. Interesting note, the children doesn't get to choose the parent. No, the parent chooses the orphan. Our father chose us. We didn't choose him. He chose us.

And so though all earthly ties may fail, though you may feel bruised in your soul or you often feel disappointed that everything you try to do and yet nothing seems to happen spiritually speaking. Christ opens this door for you and what is it? Eternal household. The true family of God so that you'll never feel isolated. So that you will never feel like you're on your own. You have an hundredfold right now, brothers and sisters in Christ. It's amazing. It's profound. It goes against earthly economy, earthly ways of building relationships because it's all of him that opens the doors. You see that? I want you to understand the grace that's offered to you. And your local church is your spiritual family.

Calvary Road is your local church, your spiritual family.

If you're a member here at Calvary Road that when you have moments of isolation, when you feel moments of discouragement and disappointment, look around the pews. Look at your brothers and sisters in Christ like Jesus looked out to his disciples. The bonds are forged in the blood of Calvary. That is more stronger than any types of connection biologically with our DNA.

And so this relationship will outlast the very stars that you see in heaven. Think about that. Think about that. Obedience is our anchor. When we're sensing doubt and we're straying away, he's the one that's holding you. And he keeps pulling you in, pulling you in, pulling you in, pulling you in.

And so when we commit ourselves wholly devoted to our Lord Jesus Christ, doing the will of our father who art in heaven, we walk in step with our elder brother, the Lord Jesus Christ. We find intimacy that the world can neither give nor take away. Let that be at the very core of your heart this morning and beyond. Let it hold. Let yourself wholly lean in the promises of God, the family of faith in Christ.

That God is the one that planted you here for a specific reason to help this spiritual family. That's all of God. It has nothing to do with you. You might have thought that, oh, I found you on the website or I found you through this or that. No, no, no. God does the drawing. God does the drawing. And I know that and you know that. And so we just need to continue to just open our as it were spiritual family and welcome those that Christ is bringing because it is the Lord that adds unto his church daily such as should be saved.

And so as we prepare to close this afternoon, I just want you to know what all you have in Christ to continue to do the will of God the Father and not to do it out of duty, not to do it out of emotion, but to do it by the love of God on your life because this is all about relationships. And we're going to be praying and fasting this week at Calvary Road for this very thing to happen.

And this evening, I'm looking forward to it. Let me just share with you.

Wednesday night, those who were here this on Wednesday night, I was completely overwhelmed. I didn't know which direction to go. And then I got a hold with a brother the next day and I just shared my heart to him. And I asked him to pray and I sensed a great relief and a great clarity that came over me that was not there on Wednesday night. Those that were here, you got to see that. I'll just I'm just sharing my heart right now. God is so good. He gave me exactly what to do this coming week and to start a new series in Sunday evening. I believe is going to bring our church family to a place that will stretch our horizon. Where God is going to do even greater things. I believe so because it's all biblical.

So, let me just go ahead and pray for you at this time.

Father, it is such a joy to know that we have everything, all of our answers pertaining to our lives. We thank you that over and over again you show us text after text after text of the kind of promises that is given to your children who do your will that you will provide all of our needs in Christ Jesus. And I just pray that you would give greater confidence in your word, greater confidence in your spirit who gives strength and clarity. Oh father, please bless your people. Help me to be a blessing to them. I thank you for this church family. I thank you for everything that you're doing in their lives, including the persecutions. All of it is for your glory and for your honor. We want to look beyond what we are experiencing right now. I know the heaviness in this in this room, but Father, I'm asking that you would lift their burdens. Father, lift their burdens like it says in 1 Peter, because you care for

them, you will take those burdens and you will gladly receive them because you care for us. Help them to experience your care and love from now and forever.

I also pray for the lost Lord. Please, Father, you've brought him, you brought people here and you've allowed them to stay here for a reason. God, I don't know all the details. I don't I'm not going to assume I know. But I know, Father, you're the one that draws sinners to your dear son, Jesus Christ. It is you that opens the eyes of their hearts to see that Christ truly died for all sin. And it's your spirit that gives the spiritual life in which Jesus says, "I will breathe the Holy Spirit so that you will understand everything." Oh father, I pray that you would do that through the lost here. Show them the cross that the cross was for them. That every nails and the crown that he wore was for them. The lashing on his back was for them. So that they don't have to be punished, but that you, Lord Jesus Christ, received all the punishment on their behalf. Oh, what a blessing. Father, please show them this by your grace and your mercy. And we'll thank you for the salvation that only you can do to bring to them in Jesus' name. Amen.