



Sermon Series: Kingdom Ways Week 2

Sermon Title: Jesus' Family

Date: 2/25/2024

Mark 3:31-35

BIG IDEA: Allow Jesus to define your family

In our passage, we gain the following important insights:

1. Jesus' earthly family cared deeply for him

Mark 3:31-32

Jesus' family was diligently looking for him. It would seem that everything Jesus is doing, preaching, teaching, healing, and challenging the religious experts, is causing trouble for him. They seem to be trying to save him from pain and humiliation. They don't appear to know his motivations.

How many times has your unbelieving family thought you were crazy for following Jesus? They just don't yet understand. When you choose godliness instead of ungodliness, family does not always understand.

1Corinthians 1:18

2. Jesus expands your family

Mark 3:33-34

The crowd was willing to interrupt Jesus to get his attention; after all, his mother was seeking him. The crowd would have expected Jesus to stop what he was doing and immediately seek out his mother.

Jesus does not deny his family, but he **DEFINES** it. In the culture of his day, to choose friends or a faith activity over his own family would have been insulting! Jesus does something radical: he expands his family to include and prioritize the people in his presence, those following him. He does not reject his earthly family - He expands His family – Just as he does today.

3. YOU can have a place in HIS family

Mark 3:35

"Whoever," it's such a large open DOOR. Jesus looked around at those listening to him and proclaimed them to be mother, brother, sister.

But then it narrows:

Whoever does the will of God – and what is Jesus talking about (the will of God)? Those who hear the word of God and do it. Luke 8:21

If you want to be in Jesus' family and intimately connected with Jesus, hear the word of God and allow your life to change! Intimacy with Jesus grows each time we hear from Him and then obey what we have heard.

This is the heart of our mission: Jesus told us to go make disciples, who in turn make disciples – People in His family are people who do what He says.

And it all starts the day you believe in Jesus as your savior and master. What does God's word say? Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. Our life as believers is based on our intimate relationship with Jesus. Do you have a relationship with Jesus? YES – then you have a new family! All around you! Your family is expanded through Jesus!!!!!!

Our mission is to make disciples who make disciples; we do that because we are commanded to by Jesus. We believe that is the only way to reach our vision: which is to raise up generations of families that are built to last.

But families – earthly or spiritual won't last unless we allow God's word to shape our lives. You can't live the same as you did in the past and expect to become transformed. You have a new family, and the expectation is that we are following Jesus together AND individually. Then we can celebrate!

Do you want this new family?

- your faith in Jesus is #1. You are dead and lost without it.
- then, sit with him & listen (HIS word)/ or he will remain a stranger to you.
- at the same time, experience him (Spirit); overtly recognize His goodness
- and you can't get away from the call to obey Him (word)
- Be with your new family – in a small group – Just like in today's passage – a group of people sitting around the living word hearing directly from him.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Does it seem harsh that Jesus said, "Who are My mother and My brothers?" "Here are My mother and My brothers!?" Explain why or why not.**
- **Have you experienced resistance from your family when you told them you are a follower of Jesus? Explain**
- **Does your perception of the church change when you understand that other Christians are your family? Explain**
- **How should we respond to Jesus defining our family? How does this change the way we act towards one another?**