



Date: 07-26-2026

Sermon: A New Family Around Jesus

Text: Mark 3:20–35 NLT

The central question of the passage is not simply:

Who is related to Jesus?

The question is:

Who truly understands Him and responds to Him rightly?

I. Jesus Is Often _____.

Mark 3:20–21 NLT

20 One time Jesus entered a house, and the crowds began to gather again. Soon he and his disciples couldn't even find time to eat. 21 When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. "He's out of his mind," they said.

Application:

Following Jesus may not always make sense to the people around us.

Notes:

II. Jesus Must Not Be _____.**Mark 3:22-30 NLT**

22 But the teachers of religious law who had arrived from Jerusalem said, "He's possessed by Satan, the prince of demons. That's where he gets the power to cast out demons." 23 Jesus called them over and responded with an illustration. "How can Satan cast out Satan?" he asked. 24 "A kingdom divided by civil war will collapse. 25 Similarly, a family splintered by feuding will fall apart. 26 And if Satan is divided and fights against himself, how can he stand? He would never survive. 27 Let me illustrate this further. Who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger--someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house. 28 "I tell you the truth, all sin and blasphemy can be forgiven, 29 but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. This is a sin with eternal consequences." 30 He told them this because they were saying, "He's possessed by an evil spirit."

Application:

We must not explain Jesus away or resist His authority.

Notes:

III. Jesus Creates a _____ Family.**Mark 3:31-35 NLT**

31 Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him. They stood outside and sent word for him to come out and talk with them. 32 There was a crowd sitting around Jesus, and someone said, "Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you." 33 Jesus replied, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" 34 Then he looked at those around him and said, "Look, these are my mother and brothers. 35 Anyone who does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Application:

The church is not merely a gathering we attend; it is a family to which we belong.

Notes:

Conclusion

Three groups surround Jesus:

- Those who misunderstand Him
- Those who reject Him
- Those who listen and obey Him

Closing Question:

Are we standing outside trying to manage Jesus, or are we gathered around Him, listening and obeying?

Final Truth:

Those who belong to Jesus gather around Him and live according to the will of God.

Expanded Notes

Mark 3:28 NLT

28 "I tell you the truth, all sin and blasphemy can be forgiven

The unpardonable sin occurs when someone speaks against the Holy Spirit ([Luke 12:10](#)), a concept that has generated considerable theological debate about its precise nature and contemporary relevance.

Scholars propose at least four interpretations^[1] of this sin. One view identifies it as persistent unbelief throughout life—a refusal to accept Christ that prevents salvation^[1]. Another position sees it as apostasy, where a professing Christian abandons faith and forfeits salvation^[1]. A third understanding characterizes it as malicious, deliberate rejection and accusation of the Spirit's work, attributing it to Satan instead^[1]. A fourth view argues that because this sin was tied specifically to Jesus's exorcisms during his earthly ministry, it cannot be committed today^[1].

The Gospel accounts provide crucial context. When Jesus healed a demon-possessed man, the Pharisees claimed he cast out demons through Satan's power ([Matt 12:22–32](#)). Rather than speaking from ignorance, the Pharisees were consciously disputing what was indisputable—willfully rejecting the Spirit's work despite clear evidence^[2]. This willful, self-conscious rejection of truth differs from simply rejecting the gospel message, which can be forgiven^[2].

The core idea involves attributing to evil sources what are clearly works of the Holy Spirit—calling good evil^[3]. Blasphemy against the Spirit ultimately

rejects Jesus's own claims, involving self-conscious awareness of truth combined with deliberate turning away from it^[2].

Additional biblical passages: [Hebrews 6:4–6](#) describes those who have experienced the Holy Spirit's work but then turn away, making repentance impossible. [Hebrews 10:26–29](#) warns that those who deliberately continue sinning after knowing truth have no sacrifice remaining, and those who insult the Spirit face severe judgment.

[1] David S. Dockery, Nathan A. Finn, and Christopher W. Morgan, "[Series Introduction](#)," in *The Holy Spirit*, ed. Nathan A Finn, Christopher W. Morgan, and David S. Dockery (B&H Academic, 2020), [343–344](#).

[2] D. A. Carson, "[Matthew](#)," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelin (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984), [291–292](#).

[3] T. Rees, "[Blasphemy](#)," in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, ed. James Orr et al. (Chicago: The Howard-Severance Company, 1915), [486](#).