



***‘Now!’ Sermon Series***

Sermon #14

Sunday, July 21st, 2024

***‘Face Your Family!’***

***Mark 3:31-35***

**Last week in ‘NOW’ sermon series:**

- Last week we looked at evangelistic sermon based on Mark 3:31-35.
  - *In that text we saw where Jesus confronted the scribes when they accused Him of accomplishing these miracles and wonders on the power of satan.*
- Last Sunday I preached a sermon entitled ***‘The One Thing that Keeps you out of Heaven!’***
  - I asked the question: *What are the three signs that someone may be guilty of committing the unpardonable sin?*
    - **Point 1: *An Inaccurate Picture. (V. 22)***

- **Point 2: *The Ignoring of Parables. (V. 23-27)***

- **Point 3: *The Impossibility of Pardon. (V. 28-30)***

- Based on last week’s sermon, do you know for a fact that you have not committed the unpardonable sin?
- What other sins may be present in your life, that you need to trust that God can and will forgive you of...

***‘Face Your Family!’***

***Mark 3:31-35***

**Sermon in a Sentence:**

***We can Face our Family in personal ministry when we realize that we will have Opposition from Blood Family, we must Object Basic Family Relations, and notice the opportunity we have to be with our Blood Bought Family.***

**Intro:**

- The phrase ‘we’re all God’s children anyways’ is used often in our mainstream culture to try and convince everyone that it doesn’t matter what you believe, but that we are all going to Heaven anyway.
  - *This idea is often called **Universalism.***
- ***Dr. Daniel Aiken in his commentary on Mark, shared that Keith DeRose defined Universalism as this ‘Universalism refers to the position that eventually all***

*human beings will be saved and will enjoy everlasting life with Christ... In short, then, it's the position that every human being ill, eventually at least, make it to the party.'*

- Now, we know that Universalism is not reality.

*John 1:12-13* shows us this:

- ***'But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.'***

- We must receive the Lord in order to be children of God.

- *This morning we arrive at a passage of scripture where Jesus encounters His family, again.*

- *Back in Mark 3:20-21, we saw where Jesus' mother's and brothers went out to Jesus to seize Him, because they felt that He was out of His mind.*

- This morning, they are going to make another attempt to try and silence Jesus, and take Him back with them.

- His family has accused Him of being 'mad' and needing to be confined.

- *The important thing that hopefully we will see and understand this morning, is that your family will not*

***always understand the ministry that God has called you to do.***

- Many of you know this, but your family is not saved because of what you do for the Lord. They must make their own decision!

- *I can't tell you how many times I've had conversations with folks who believe that their salvation is contingent on another family member.*

- *Or, people who will stop their work for the Lord and falling His calling on their lives because of what their family, think, says, or does.*

- This morning, we need to rethink and redefine, who are real family is. Our Heavenly family.

- ***\*Illustration\****

- There was a man who grew up in Sudan, which is a country in North Africa (below Egypt).
- This young man's name was Adel, and he was apart of a radical muslim family.

- His father was a leader in the local mosque.

- *Adel became curious, longing for more than what islam could give him. He felt there was something more about there.*

- One of his friends gave him a Christian Bible in English. But, Adel couldn't speak English, so the friend suggested

- Adel go and talk to a Pastor in Sudan that he could speak with.
- *Adel did that, and the Pastor gave him a Bible in Arabic and Adel started reading the Gospels day and night.*
  - *Soon after Adel discovered God's love, he was convicted by the fact that God's love drove His followers to love one another, and not hate.*
  - That day, Adel fell under conviction and surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- *Soon after this, Adel's devout muslim family found out about his new faith.*
  - Shortly after there was a muslim festival in town, and during the festival they locked adel in a room and said they would kill him if he didn't renounce his new faith and return to Islam.
- *Adel prayed the whole time he was in the room, he told his family he knew the truth and that he was going to follow it.*
  - They didn't kill him, but they did disown him.
- After his family disowned him, so did his friends.
  - They constantly called him an *infidel*.
- Adel told people that **Galatians 2:20** is what got him through that difficult time:

- 'I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.'
  - *Adel is still a professing believer. The persecution from his family did not break him.*
    - Adel has led others to Christ, that are his friends, and has recently started an underground Church.
  - *While many of do not face persecution that comes even close to what Adel did, we may have family members that have disowned us or simply won't speak to us because of our faith.*
    - *Jesus ran into the same issues. He faced His family and defined what real Heavenly family is. We must do the same.*
- \*Read Mark 3:31-35\***

#### Question to Ask:

*What does Jesus face from His earthly family and His Heavenly family in this text?*

#### Point 1: *Opposition from Blood Family. (V. 31-32)*

- Similar to what we were told by Mark in verses 20-21 of chapter 3, we see that Mary and Jesus' brothers come to where He is.

- *As we looked at last week, we believe Jesus is still staying at Peter's mother-in-law's house which was in Capernaum.*
- Before we dive into the opposition that Jesus will face from His family we need to define who these earthly relatives are.
  - *Thanks to Matthew and Luke we know a good bit about Jesus' mother, Mary.*
    - *Obviously we believe that Mark would've known Mary and who she was, but he only mentions her by name one time, and that is in Mark 6:3.*
  - Jesus' father is not mentioned, so most scholars assume that he has already passed at this time.
    - Now according to [Matthew 13:55](#), we know that Jesus has at least 4 half brothers.
      - 'Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?'
  - *According to Matthew 13:56, Jesus also had half sisters.*
    - 'And are not all his sisters with us? Matthew 13:56
  - *Two of Jesus' brothers would go on to write two different letters in the NT (James and Jude), and they would come to have faith in Jesus Christ after His resurrection (Acts 1:14)*

- Now that we know who these family members are, I believe there are two things to point out about these verses.
- *The Search. (V. 31)*
  - 'And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him.'
  - *Where were Mary and the Brothers living at this time, we do not know, but it seems based on verse 21 and 31, that they had to travel to find Jesus.*
    - *They are searching for Jesus because they are embarrassed by Him.*
  - It seems as if Jesus came from a strong Jewish family. And Jesus' teaching, ministry and miracles were making the scribes and pharisees mad.
    - *So, in the minds of Jesus' family, this was bringing shame and embarrassment on them.*
  - *\*Word Study\**
    - The English word 'called' comes from the greek verb '*Kalien*' *ἐκάλεσεν* which occurs 148 times in NT and means to call into one's presence, send for someone.
    - *Elsewhere in Mark when this verb is used, Jesus is the subject of it 'to call' (you can find this in Mark 1:20 and*

**Mark 2:17), but here it is the family seeking to put a claim on him. Meaning they want to seize him and taking him home.**

- **When your family does not understand your zeal and desire for taking the Gospel to the nations, they will try to seize you and silence you.**
  - **Just like how Adele's family locked him in a room so that he couldn't spread the good news.**
- The search had ended because they had located Jesus and had sent for Him, but now, Mark gives us some insightful symbolism on the situation.
- **The Symbolism. (V. 32)**
  - And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers[a] are outside, seeking you."
  - The main symbolism that we need to see here is extremely important.
    - **Two times, in verse 31 and 32, we are told that the crowd is on the inside with Jesus and that Jesus' family was on the outside.**
  - Scholar James Edwards said **'That is ironic since households normally have family members on the inside and crowds on the outside.'**

- I believe that Mark purposefully put that contrast here between the family being outside and the crowd being inside to show show that they truly didn't know or understand who Jesus was.
- John Phillips adds an interesting thought to this as well **'For many years they had been on the inside. They had seen Him and known Him as no others in the world had known Him. They had memories of Him that could have filled volumes. Now between Him and them was a distance.'**
  - They were on the outside not because they weren't allowed in or because Jesus 'put' them there, but because their unbelief in who Jesus was had put them there.
- **\*Word Study\***
  - Someone in this small crowd in the house relayed to Jesus that His family had been outside looking for Him.
  - The word 'seeking' comes from the Greek word **'Zeteo' ζητοῦσι** which literally means to search after, be on the watch for, and to pursue.
    - **Zeteo occurs ten times in Mark, and everytime that it occurs it is in a situation that describes**

***someone attempting to gain control over Jesus.***

- The family assumes that because they are blood relatives, that they have rights over Jesus that He is obliged and required to honor.
  - ***Jesus is getting ready to explain to them that His duty is not to the blood on this earth, but to His Heavenly Father.***
- So far this morning, we've seen the opposition from the family.

**Point 2: *Objection to Basic Family Relations. (V. 33)***

- 'And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"'
  - ***Jesus' answer to this question would have knocked any Jew off of their feet.***
  - ***Jesus objects to the idea of Basic Family relations in the way that the Jews would have viewed it.***
    - While we are tempted to think that this is an insult, I do not think Jesus is seeking to insult His family or being rude, but He is setting the tone as far as what being family really means and how much distance there is between Him and them, because of their unbelief.
- JM said ***'The Lord's point was that the only relationship to Him that matters eternally is not physical but spiritual.'***

- ***It's not that Jesus is going out of His way to be rude, He's trying to do them a favor by allowing them to see that the blood lines are not what take you into the next life.***
- ***W.W. put this in perspective when he said 'Our Lord was not suggesting that believers ignore or abandon their families in order to serve God, but only that they put God's will above everything else in life. Our love for God should be so great that our love for family would seem like hatred in compassion.'***
  - ***In other words, by all means, love your families. But don't allow your family to influence you away from serving God.***
- ***I believe there are 4 implications that we can draw from what Jesus meant with His answer here:***
  - #1: No Physical Family connection is a requirement to be in Heaven. (In other words, who you are physically related to does not get you to Heaven!)
  - #2: No racial or cultural background is a requirement for Heaven. (Example: Being a Jew or Gentile)
  - #3: When you are a Christian, you are a part of the Family of God, and that is the family that will last forever, and ultimately the family that really matters.
  - #4: The Christian family will associate you with people that you may have never before been associated with (such as thieves, murderers, liars,

cheaters, legalists, adulterers, fornicators, drunkards, addicts, and so much more. At the end of the day, we are all sinners).

- ***I believe that Jesus clearly and plainly objects to the idea that the earthly family should be worshipped and put on a pedestal.***
  - We should love, honor and respect our earthly families, but if you really love your earthly family, you'll seek to share the Gospel with them so that they can be a part of your Heavenly family.
- James Edwards said ***'Without spite, Jesus alerts his natural family that blood relationship cannot claim privilege.'***
  - ***Plainly said, seen, and spoken, there are those who sit on the inside at the feet of Jesus and know who He is and have a relationship with Him.***
  - ***Then, there are those on the outside with false accusations and assumptions about who He really is.***
- So far this morning we've seen the opposition from Blood family, the Objection that Jesus gave to basic family relations, and lastly we see...

**Point 3: *Opportunity to be Blood Bought Family. (V. 34-35)***

- I'm sure that Jesus deeply loved His mother and His brothers, He does not want them to perish without knowing what true salvation is. So, he defines it with what He says to his disciples in these verses.
  - ***As we discussed last week, until you take your last breath, there's always the opportunity to be blood bought by Jesus.***
    - ***He explains and defines it here in these verses.***
- 'And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! **35** For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother." Mark 3:34-35
  - I believe there are **2** really important things that Jesus shares about the opportunity to be a Blood Bought member in the family of God...
- ***Following Jesus isn't about what He may do for you. (V. 34)***
  - 'And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!'" Mark 3:34
  - As we have studied already in Mark, many of the crowds who had followed Jesus had done so because they wanted to see what miracles and exorcisms He would do next.
    - ***For many, following Jesus was like a circus. They didn't want to miss the next act.***

- *Many people think they are following Jesus because they want to see what's the next joke the preacher is going to tell.*
  - *Or they want to have a bite of desert at the next Church social.*
    - *Or they want to see whether or not Jesus heals a person who had requested for prayer.*
- **NEWSFLASH CHURCH, following Jesus is not about you.**
  - Now, what Jesus says in verse 34 but cause us to ask, who was physically present in this room?
    - *I would assume the 12, which included Judas along with some scribes who were probably writing down everything He was saying at teaching so that they might trap Him again soon.*
- Dr. Daniel Aiken said *'People follow Jesus for different reasons and with different agendas. Some reasons are good and others are bad. Some want Him; others want what He can give them and do for them.'*
  - There are those in our own culture, community and even Church who only want to follow Jesus to see if He'll give them the blessings that they've asked for.
- Following Jesus isn't about being in a crowd. A crowd is temporary. But following Jesus is about the long haul. It's a forever decision.
  - *So, We know some were there for the wrong reason, so what does Jesus say those must do that want to follow Him?*
- **Following Jesus is about Obeying Him. (V. 35)**
  - 'For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.'
  - **When I see what Jesus says here, I cannot help but think about what we find in John 14:15.**
    - "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
  - Luke 8:21 also backs up this truth:
    - 'But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."
  - Scholar Kent Hughes said *'Obedience does not originate a relationship with God, but obedience is a sign of it'*
    - *It is not obedience or works that save us from our sins, but if we do have a relationship with Jesus, then obedience will be a sign that we are truly saved.*
  - Are you obeying Jesus today? If you are truly following Jesus, then you will truly be obeying Him and what He has commanded you to do in His Word.



### Conclusion:

- We love our families, as we should according to the Bible.
  - *But, we need to make sure that we face our families if they ever try to come in between our relationship with God.*
  - *We want our families to come alongside of us and help our work for the Kingdom, not to hurt it.*
- I want to be clear that I'm not asking you to go home and 'tell your family members off', or to be rude to them, I want you to understand that just like Jesus, your family may not understand...
  - *Why you faithfully attend Church.*
  - *Why you go to Sunday School.*
  - *Why you teach and study for SS all week long.*
  - *Why you volunteer to work in Children's Worship.*
  - *Why you volunteer to work with the youth every wednesday and sunday.*
  - *Why you stand in front of 280 people and sing in the choir and praise team.*
  - *They may not understand why you share the Gospel in every restaurant and gas station.*
  - *They may not understand why you spend time everyday reading your Bible.*
  - *They may not understand why you pray constantly.*

- *They may not understand why you visit the nursing homes and hospitals.*
- *They may not understand why you're moving halfway across the world to do missions in a third world country.*
- *They may not understand why you give to the local Church.*
  - *And guess what, that's okay! They don't have to understand because you don't live to please them, but to please your Heavenly Father.*
- *Love your family, serve your family, share the Gospel with them, but don't let your blood family control your dictate the ministry you do with your blood bought family...*
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