

True Family

Part 4 of *The Gospel of Mark*

Mark 3:7-35

Pastor Jon Ashley

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“Anyone who does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

- Mark 3:35 (NLT)

1. The Duality of Family

- They know us better than anyone
- They speak truth into our lives
- They cause both joy and pain

2. Jesus sought to balance:

- Solitude and Serving (v. 7-12)
- Calling and Sending (v. 13-19)
- Teaching and Loving (v. 20-35)

3. We are the family of God

- Jesus says “anyone who does God’s will” is family
- As brothers and sisters in Christ, we journey together
- Invest in loving your family

Conclusion: Live as the true family of God!

REFLECT (Questions to respond to this week):

- Read today’s Bible passage. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you?
- What challenges does Jesus face in this passage?
- How does Jesus face and overcome these challenges?
- What role do his disciples and other followers play in his ministry?
- Have you experienced the “duality of family”? How so?
- How is Jesus calling you to serve and partner with Him and others in ministry?
- Who can you share the love of Christ with this week? How will you do so?

Scripture Reading

Mark 3:7-35 (NLT)

⁷ Jesus went out to the lake with his disciples, and a large crowd followed him. They came from all over Galilee, Judea, ⁸ Jerusalem, Idumea, from east of the Jordan River, and even from as far north as Tyre and Sidon. The news about his miracles had spread far and wide, and vast numbers of people came to see him.

⁹ Jesus instructed his disciples to have a boat ready so the crowd would not crush him. ¹⁰ He had healed many people that day, so all the sick people eagerly pushed forward to touch him. ¹¹ And whenever those possessed by evil spirits caught sight of him, the spirits would throw them to the ground in front of him shrieking, “You are the Son of God!” ¹² But Jesus sternly commanded the spirits not to reveal who he was.

¹³ Afterward Jesus went up on a mountain and called out the ones he wanted to go with him. And they came to him. ¹⁴ Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach, ¹⁵ giving them authority to cast out demons. ¹⁶ These are the twelve he chose: Simon (whom he named Peter), ¹⁷ James and John (the sons of Zebedee, but Jesus nicknamed them “Sons of Thunder”), ¹⁸ Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon (the zealot), ¹⁹ Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).

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.

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.”

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.”

Feb. 3 **Parables of Faith** (Mark 4:1-34) @ 10:30 a.m. only

Feb. 10 **Storms and Demons Obey Him** (Mark 4:35-5:20)

Feb. 17 **Touch of Faith** (Mark 5:21-43)

Feb. 24 **Unbelievable Unbelief** (Mark 6:1-29)

March 3 **Acts of Compassion** (Mark 6:30-56)

Ash Wednesday,

March 6 **Defiled Hearts** (Mark 7:1-23) @ 7 p.m.

