

Jesus and His Family
Mark 3:20-21; 31-35
January 13, 2013

Introduction

From C.S. Lewis:

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: “I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.” That is the one thing we must not say. A man who said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” (From *Mere Christianity*)

C.S. Lewis wrote this because he was concerned about how people saw Jesus. Too many saw Him as a good human with great teaching, but they refused to see Him as the Son of God. To Lewis, everything was black and white, and how you saw Jesus and relate to Him was the most important thing in the universe. He narrows it down to 3 options in how you view Jesus. Jesus makes the claim that He is God in flesh. Do you think Him insane? Do you think Him untruthful? If it is either of those options, then we can trust nothing what Jesus says; however, if we accept what He says as true, then how should we acknowledge Him? For Lewis (and for the Bible) there is only one option: get on your knees and call Him Lord and God.

The New Testament is very clear that Jesus is not a lunatic because He develops and cultivates relationships with people, and they respond to Him. Lunatics by definition are anti-social or are incapable of being social. This is not the case with Jesus. He is also not a liar because the Gospel writers show that He performs miracles that only God can do—creative miracles that is evident and witnessed by crowds of people. This is one thing that His critics never deny—His performing the miracles. They usually attribute His miraculous works as demonic, but they never deny that He does do them.

Here in Mark, we see two things happening: His own family thinks He is insane and the religious leaders think He has a demon and operates by demonic powers. Today we will look at how his family view Jesus and how He responds to them. Next week we will be looking at the unforgivable sin that Jesus mentions in the same passage.

Mark 3:20-21; 31-35 *Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that He and His disciples were not even able to eat. ²¹When His family heard about this, they went to take charge of Him, for they said, "He is out of His mind." ³¹Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call Him. ³²A crowd was sitting around Him, and they told Him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." ³³"Who are My mother and My brothers?" He asked. ³⁴Then He looked at those seated in a circle around Him and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! ³⁵Whoever does God's will is My brother and sister and mother."*

I. The Setting

- Jesus enters a house

- This was probably the house in Capernaum that Jesus had been staying at

Mark 1:29 *As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew.*

Mark 2:1 *A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that He had come home.*

- The gathering crowd
 - This crowd is unruly and packing
 - They are there for one purpose
 - To witness His healing others and/or to be healed by Him
 - Matthew 12:22-37 is a parallel account
 - Jesus had healed a blind, mute demon-possessed man—it probably caused a sensation among the people
 - Jesus is so popular that the crowds prevented Jesus and the disciples from eating meals

II. The Family

- His family
 - His mother and brothers

Mark 6:3 *Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's Son and the brother of James, Joses, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?"*

Note: This should put to rest that Mary was perpetually a virgin. It isn't warranted in Scripture, nor culturally. This idea goes against what God has commanded—be fruitful and multiply. Some think by this comment that these were Joseph's children from previous marriage. Scripture does not say and it is unwise to draw that conclusion.

- Came to seize Him
 - To bring Him back home in Nazareth
- Jesus is crazy—out of His mind
 - Why did they think this?
 - Because He was not feeding Himself because of the crowd
 - Possibility is that they thought He could not take care of Himself.
- Did Jesus' mother think Him crazy?
 - No

Luke 2:19 *But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

Luke 2:51 *Then He went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But His mother treasured all these things in her heart.*

John 2:3-5 *When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to Him, "They have no more wine." ⁴"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you."*

- She knew that Jesus was different from His siblings
- Why did she come? Motherly concerns

- Did Jesus' brothers think Him crazy?
 - Yes

John 7:5 *For even His own brothers did not believe in Him.*

- They did not recognize Him as God
- One of the Markan themes is that Jesus is the Son of God, but two men recognized Him as the Son of God (Peter and Centurion)
- As of this chapter, only two have identified Jesus as Son of God—God the Father and the demons

III. Jesus' True Family

- His family arrives to come for Him
 - They stand outside
 - They are waiting for Him to go with them
- Who are My mother and My brother?
 - It sounds like an insult and an unloving response
 - We know that He loved His mother
 - What did Jesus mean?

Mark 3:35 *Whoever does God's will is My brother and sister and mother.*

- He is in effect saying that the physical relationship is not important
- What is important is the relationship of obedience to the will of the Father
- This is a spiritual issue

Luke 11:27-28 *As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave You birth and nursed You." ²⁸He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."*

- Woman was making a Jewish statement of giving honor to both Jesus and His mother
- Again Jesus is saying that the only relationship that is important is obedience—the one who obeys the word of God
- Salvation is always demonstrated by obedience

Matthew 7:24-25 *Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*

1 John 2:4-5 *The man who says, "I know Him," but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But if anyone obeys His word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in Him:*

James 1:22 *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

- Jesus response to His family's claim that He is crazy
 - Obey Me!

Conclusion

Even though His family thought Him a lunatic, they at least never attribute His works as demonic. This is a consolation because to do so is terminally destructive to your soul. Jesus said that their sins would be unforgiven when they had blasphemed the Holy Spirit by saying that His works are demonic—we will talk about this next week.

So what happened to His family?

Acts 1:14 *They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

Sometime between John 7:5 and Acts 1:14, His brothers believed (and probably His sisters as well). What an awesome testimony! They are in the Upper Room with the Apostles after Jesus' Ascension. They have bowed down to Him as Lord.

Mark 6:3 *Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's Son and the brother of James, Joses, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?"*

James and Judas—the Lord's half-brother. They wrote two letters in the New Testament. James and Jude

James 1:1 *James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,*

Jude 1:1 *Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,*

Take note that they called themselves bondservants of Christ (or in another words—slaves). A bondservant (or slave) is a person who is totally in submission or obedience to another in charge. They placed their faith in Christ Jesus and became obedient. They became a part of His family! To Jesus be the glory forever!