

Good News From Mark

The Family You've Always Wanted

Mark 3:31-35

Intro

The word “family” can draw various responses from different people:

- joy & laughter
- warmth
- pain & suffering
- nightmares

1. Jesus' earthly family (3:21, 31)

Jesus' family said, “He is out of his mind” (3:21).

Their assumption came out of concern about his lack of sleep or nourishment due to being pressed by throngs of people (3:20). They decided to go and “take charge of him.”

When they arrived, they couldn't even get close to where Jesus was, so they sent word through the crowd.

The crowd told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.”

How were they expecting Jesus to respond?

- kick some people out of the house so his family could be near him?
- leave his ministry and go home so his family could take care of him?

Jesus' response – “Who are my mother and my brothers?”

This is not a case of disrespect.

Jesus always emphasized respect and obedience for one's parents.

After the incident in the temple when Jesus was 12, the Bible

says that he went back to Nazareth with Mary & Joseph and was obedient to them (Luke 2:51).

In Mark 7:9-13, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for setting aside God's command to honour father and mother by not taking care of them when they got older.

2. Jesus redefines "family" (3:33-35)

So what did Jesus mean?

The answer comes when Jesus looks at those seated around him and says, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Jesus takes the meaning of family to a new level.

We see similar uses in our day:

- the brotherhood of steamfitters
- the sisterhood of the traveling pants

He is referring to people who are tied together by their commitment to doing God's will.

Summary & Application

1. Becoming part of Jesus' family involves receiving him into your life.

John 1:11-12 (NIV)

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

2. People may be able to tell what family you belong to by the shape of your nose or the contours of your face.

But the telltale sign of belonging to Jesus' family is doing God's will.

We will never do God's will perfectly, but is there a pattern of commitment to God's will that people can see in your life?

John 15:14 (NIV)

You are my friends if you do what I command.

1 John 3:21-23 (NIV)

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 (NIV)

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God;

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

FAMILY OF GOD

**I'm so glad I'm a part
Of the fam'ly of God
I've been washed in the fountain
Cleansed by His blood**

**Joint heirs with Jesus
As we travel this sod**

**For I'm part of the fam'ly
The family of God**

**You will notice we say brother
And sister 'round here
It's because we're a family
And these folks are so near**

**When one has a heartache
We all share the tears
And rejoice in each victory
In this family so dear**

**I'm so glad I'm a part
Of the fam'ly of God
I've been washed in the fountain
Cleansed by His blood**

**Joint heirs with Jesus
As we travel this sod
For I'm part of the fam'ly
The family of God**

Verse 2

**From the door of an orphanage
To the house of the King
No longer an outcast
A new song I sing**

**From rags unto riches
From the weak to the strong
I'm not worthy to be here
But praise God I belong**

**I'm so glad I'm a part
Of the fam'ly of God
I've been washed in the fountain
Cleansed by His blood**

**Joint heirs with Jesus
As we travel this sod
For I'm part of the fam'ly
The family of God**

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