

Your Family is Here.

Mark 3:20–35

²⁰Then [Jesus] went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”

²²And **the scribes** who came down **from Jerusalem** were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” ²³And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan?” ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ **And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end.** ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

²⁸ “Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — ³⁰for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

³¹And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. ³²And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” ³³And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!” ³⁵ Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

Intro: We’ve all heard the familiar sayings like, “There’s no place like home, there’s none so close as family;” “Home is where one starts from.” *T.S. Eliot*; “Home is where the heart is.” *Pliny the Elder*; “The family is a haven in a heartless world.” *Christopher Lasch*; “Other things may change us, but we start and end with family.” *Anthony Brandt*

In our text this morning, **Jesus is “home.”** This sounds strange in light of the fact that, “the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” But it’s probably the home of Simon and Andrew in Capernaum. Jesus’ Galilean home. We know from previous chapters that **Jesus** has been **coming & going** from there. He has **just returned** from **appointed His 12 apostles** “that they might be with Him, and He might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons.” (3:14,15) The **scene** at the house is **intense**. There’s a **massive crowd** inside & out of the house (like the St. Louis riverfront under the arch on 4th July). They’ve come **from all over** the region and beyond gathered because they’ve **heard Jesus is back**. It was **so crazy** that more than a **day’s journey away** Jesus’ **family**, His mother & brothers, **hear of it** and they **come to rescue** Him from the perils of His own popularity. **“they went out to seize Him”** (same

word used to arrest s/o) “They came out **to take Him into custody.**” “This has gone too far Jesus! You’re losing it! This is **not good for you** Jesus! We’ve come to liberate you from this situation.”

Surely Jesus’ family - His own biological mother and brothers **will be able** to reason with Him and **get Him away** from this madness. But **He won’t even go out** to see them? He **doesn’t even acknowledge them** as family. . . . This is **embarrassing!** Humiliating! Why would Mark write this down? Matthew & Luke don’t. **Family is supposed to be #1!** What gives, Jesus?

Well, **maybe it is the temple religious leaders** from Jerusalem who are Jesus’ **real family** after all **He is the Messiah.** They **should be** His closest followers, superseding family. And **here they are.** They’ve come **all the way** from **Jerusalem** (4x farther than Nazareth). Now **that’s dedication!** But **what is this we hear** from them?

“He is **possessed** by Beelzebul,” and “**by the prince of demons** he casts out the demons.”

“This Jesus is not with us!” “He’s not part of our family!” **“We’ve seen Him** talking with the demon possessed and telling demons not to tell who He is!” **“We think He has an unclean spirit! We’re not His family!”** “He’s in league with Satan and the demons.” They say.

Jesus’ patience is amazing, after all this naming and blaming. **You and I know** that it’s the **Holy Spirit** that motivates, moves, and empowers Him. **We’ve heard Gabriel’s** words to Mary, *The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you so that the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God.* (Luke 1:35) **We saw the Holy Spirit** alight and remain on Jesus at His Baptism. **We heard His promise** to pour out the Spirit on His disciples following His resurrection and ascension and, sure enough, **we witnessed the results** on Pentecost.

Yet the scribes have called the **Holy Spirit** an **unclean** and **evil** spirit. **Their assessment** is venturing into **dangerous territory** indeed. They’ve **rejected** the Spirit of God and His witness.

If they continue down this path the **consequences** could be **deadly and eternal**. “Woe to those who call good evil and evil good. (we live in a culture that’s presently pushing that boundary all over the place)

On the video the staffer said to a woman who wanted to abort her child because it was a girl, “Here at Planned Parenthood we believe it’s not up to us to decide what is a good or a bad reason for somebody to decide to terminate a pregnancy.”

(Now that’s calling evil good if I’ve ever seen it!) But **we can’t just blame** it on **others** in our culture – **every time** we sin in thought, word, or deed (by what we do or leave undone) **we trade good for evil** – thinking we know better than God what’s good for ourselves or others.

Jesus gently calls the Scribes to Himself for a **teaching moment** and **demonstrates just how** preposterous their theory is:

“How can Satan cast out Satan?”²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end.²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

In other words, here before them is One **stronger than Satan** who **can bind him** and **rescue** his captives! It is the **hand of God** they are witnessing and **it would be well** for them to listen and turn from their unbelief!

Now, at the **last part of our text** the question we began with resurfaces: “**Who’s your momma?** And your brothers, & sisters . . . **“your family** is outside seeking you, Jesus. **Aren’t you** going to **stop teaching** and preaching & **go back** to Nazareth with them?” And **it’s here** that Jesus **identifies His true family**. His family is those who gather around His Word and gifts (who hear the Word of God and keep it)

³⁴*And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “**Here are my mother and***

my brothers! ³⁵ *Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."*

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; He who loves son or daughter more than Me . . . **Jesus does not call us to reject or turn our back** on our biological family, but **He's setting the priorities** of the eternal order. The **1st Commandment** (our relationship w God) **takes priority** over the 4th Commandment and is the basis for **every other** commandment and **every other** right relationship with others.

So, **who is** Jesus' family; **where is** Jesus' family. **HERE IS JESUS' FAMILY!** You are Jesus' family. **Here is your family!** In your baptism Jesus binds the strong man of your sinful nature and rescues you from the power of Beelzebub. **Here is your family!** Every Lord's day our Father and Brother prepare a feast for our benefit (the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of your faith) **Here is your family!** Our Father speaks to us in tender forgiving words of healing . . . empowering words - that we might know His will and be empowered to follow it. **Here is your family.** Bless us Jesus. Amen.