

MARK 3:31-35 THE FAMILY OF JESUS

REVIEW: House divided, unpardonable sin, no forgiveness eternal sin

INTRO:

- If we have been called to be disciples, and as true disciples we are to give ourselves to the calling of God, the will of God.
- We, like Jesus must be about our Fathers business and not serve another master. Lk. 2:49
- Mt. 6:24; "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
- Our service to Christ and the work He has commissioned and gifted for is of the utmost importance
- We should not be distracted or derailed by any usurper business, regardless of how it is dressed up, that attempts to draw us aside and put itself before our love to Him and His will for us. This is our high calling.
 - See **Nehemiah 6:1-**
- In these verses we will look at today we will see how Jesus defines, identifies discipleship and the call to fulfill our mission as those who are His true family members.
- What a wonder, what a privilege that Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brothers. **Heb. 2:11-13**

READ MK. 3:31-35

- The mother, brothers or sister of Jesus were not excluded from being His true family, but were challenged to come into this relationship in the Spirit and not by blood. **(Jn. 1:12, 13)**
- Jesus declares that Spirit born faith and obedience, not blood, is the link of souls with His Father.
- Here the earthly mother does not see the authority, and the care of the Heavenly Father. **(VS. 21)**
- Their meddling was a bit like Uzzah's touch on the ark of God which needed no steadying from man.
- Jesus says the same thing about doing the Fathers will in Lk. 11:27, 28;
 - And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed *is* the womb that bore You, and *the* breasts which nursed You!" ²⁸ But He said, "More than that, blessed *are* those who hear the word of God and keep it!"
- Mary's intercession to her Son did not avail her then nor now. (Jn. 2)

- Jesus does not set Mary up as His mediator with men, for He has given to us His Spirit, the Holy Spirit is God's Messenger. Jesus is our Mediator and through the Spirit we have access to Him.
 - Eph. 2:18; For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.
- Yet Jesus loves His mother better than any other earthly son.
- He loves her to the end and on the cross He ignores His agony to secure her comfort.

THE OBEDIANCE OF JESUS TO HIS FATHERS WILL:

- In the face of every opposition, satanic, Pharisees, Scribes, or family, Jesus was unwavering in His calling and mission, His obedience to the Divine will of His Father.
- He set His face like a flint toward Jerusalem and His crucifixion.
 - Isa. 50:7; "For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.
 - Lk. 9:51; Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,
- In Lk. 12:50, Jesus said; I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished! (being straitened or pressed in spirit, with desire, to urge or impel, to be held by, closely occupied with any business, constrained)

THE CALL OF OBEDIANCE TO JESUS TO THOSE WHO WOULD BE DISCIPLES:

- MK. 3:34, Mt. 12:49. Jesus looked around on those who sat near Him, Matthew tells us it was His disciples, He stretches forth His hands to them and encourages them with the statement implying that these were His family, those who were obedient to the will of the Father.
- As he looked around into their faces what did He see?
 - Peter: impulsive, self-determined, not knowing himself and who would be driven to deny Jesus from the pressure of others and the desire to save his own skin.
 - Simon Peter the "listening rock" who Jesus had given the keys to the kingdom, leading in the evangelism of 3000 souls on Pentecost, opening the salvation door to the Gentiles in Cornelius's house, (acts 10)
 - Peter, to whom the Masters first and last words were, "follow Me."
 - Who would eventually give his life being martyred at Nero's circus of entertainment in Rome, crucified upside down on a cross for love and faithfulness to His Master and His gospel.
 - James and John, the sons of thunder, (James, Acts 12) Martyred...
 - Thomas the doubter, only believing in the physical, the material, who brought the gospel to India and was speared and burned.

- And yet Jesus found His true human comfort and fellowship in those who were going to travel the lonely road laid out for Him, fully knowing that in a short while they would all desert Him, but return to Him and learn to count it all joy that they were counted worthy to suffer for His Name.
- These were His brothers, sisters, mothers. Those who do the will and obey the Father.
- Those who do the will of His Father, who give Him their first love and first priority. To them no cost is too great to serve their Savior.
 - **Mk. 10:29-30**
- Surely we can do better, follow closer, more obediently.
- The love of family, our kingdoms, the pursuit of our own happiness and comfort or any other thing should never grow into a competition with our love and obedience to God.
- No earthly love should eclipse or be greater than our love for God.
- Everything we do, every decision we make should be viewed through the lens of God's will for us.
- People today would never think that extreme sacrifice and devotion to sports, business, farming, science, humanities, or leisure would be a cause to warn them about madness, or being out of their minds.
- No family gathering to do an intervention to persuade the devotee from their overt course of an lesser worship.
- No realm is labeled madness except the realm of the sold out Christian.
- Jesus again defines discipleship in Jn. 8:31;
 - Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.
- A common outward character trait that marks the family of God is obedience to the Divine will.

CONCLUSION:

- Jesus is so gracious that He opens the closest of relations to those who will be His true disciples, those who do the will of His Father.
 - Jn. 3:1-2, Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of ^[a]God! Therefore the world does not know ^[b]us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
- To us Jesus again stretches out His hand that we too would follow in obedience to Him, those who confess His name audibly and in life, regardless of the cost.