

IS JESUS' FAMILY YOUR FAMILY?

I. Mark 3:20-35

A. Our text begins today just after Jesus chose His twelve disciples. We don't know how much He knew about these guys beforehand. We can be sure His selections were not random and that includes the choosing of Judas. Jesus, the promised Messiah, has come and He is God in the flesh. But no one recognizes Him, including the religious elite, including His very own family members. The Jewish leaders say He's of the devil and His family thinks He's crazy. But today we discover who Jesus' family truly is...

B. Mark 3:20-35 Jesus' family senses it's time for an intervention even as Jewish leaders show up to accuse Him of blasphemy. His family believes He's lost His mind and the Jewish leaders believe He's a servant of the devil...

1) For 30 years Jesus had been the elder brother in a normal Jewish household. He had learned the trade of carpenter from Joseph. He ate with them every day, slept in the same house, attended the synagogue together, traveled to the annual festivals together, but they knew Him not... (See John 7:1-5)

2) The Scribes are saying He's a sorcerer possessed by Satan himself!

3) V28-29 *"Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin."* (Sinners are regenerated (saved) by the power, work, and conviction of the Holy Spirit as He opens the hearts of the unbelieving to respond with faith to the Gospel. The Spirit reveals Christ and the Cross!

C. The Jewish leaders say Jesus is a deceiver, a servant of Satan. Jesus' family, save His mother, believe Jesus has lost His mind. (Quote by C.S. Lewis)

D. V31-35 *"And His mother and His brothers came, and standing outside they sent to Him and called Him. And a crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, "Your mother and Your brothers are outside, seeking you." And He answered them, "Who are My mother and My brothers?" And looking about at those who sat around Him, He said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother."* (Read Matthew 12:46-50 and Luke 8:19-21)

E. Here's some big questions: Who are your mother and sister and brothers? Who is your family? Do you see Jesus' family as your family? How are you personally going to process and apply these verses?

F. Now we know Jesus dearly loved His earthly family. He faithfully learned the carpenter trade from His step-father, Joseph. On the cross He asked John to care for His mother. His post-resurrection appearances included one with just His brother James who ended up martyred for His faith. James and His brother Jude both authored NT books. While there's uncertainty about Jesus' sisters, scholars believe that all of Jesus' brothers became believers, including: James, Joseph, Simon and Judas. (Matt. 13:55; Acts 1:14) Jesus loved His earthly family better than you love yours! He also loves His spiritual family better than we do but I wonder if He wants us to love His Family better?

G. What will draw people to Jesus' Family? What kind of love will it take to make people thirsty, to make them ask, seek, and knock? Will they see a God-honoring Family of believers, adopted sons and daughters, living together for the glory of God?

H. What are the greatest and most blessed aspects of your natural family? Meals together? Trips together? Celebrating together? Spending time together? Serving together? Praying together? Acceptance? Forgiveness? Encouragement? Unconditional love? Crying and laughing together? How can we better embrace and incorporate those qualities and characteristics in the Family of God?

* Close with Proverbs 18:24 and Prayer...

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Mark 3:20-35 (ESV)

20 Then He went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. 21 And when His family heard it, they went out to seize Him, for they were saying, "He is out of His mind." 22 And 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." 23 And 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”— **30** for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.” **31** And His mother and His brothers came, and standing outside they sent to Him and called Him. **32** And a crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, “Your mother and Your brothers are outside, seeking you.” **33** And He answered them, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” **34** And looking about at those who sat around Him, He said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! **35** For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

[John 7:1-5 \(ESV\)](#)

1 After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. **2** Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. **3** So His brothers said to Him, “Leave here and go to Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works You are doing. **4** For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” **5** For not even His brothers believed in Him.

[Quote by 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 was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the 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.”

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, p. 52.

[Proverbs 18:24 \(ESV\)](#)

24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

[Film Clips & Other Links](#)

Rebecca Kiessling--Adopted into God's Family

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNpRiczGHOw>

Fighting Hypocrisy in the Church - Francis Chan

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6lX3opKF4A>

"When Love Takes You In" by Stephen Curtis Chapman:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MtQ3YEbtvA&feature=related>

The Unforgivable Sin? - John Piper, Brief Audio Answer (Also in Print)

<http://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-the-unforgivable-sin>

The Unforgivable Sin - Greg Laurie

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wAVirdT5rQ>

The Unforgivable Sin - Full Sermon by John MacArthur

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcxL6dNQ5kk>

The Family of God - Davey & Goliath :-)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CT59BZZYovA>

Tim Hawkins on Church (Absolutely Hilarious!)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47hK3C7XQW8>

[Bonus Stuff](#)

[Matthew 12:46-50 \(ESV\)](#)

46 While He was still speaking to the people, behold, His mother and His brothers stood outside, asking to speak to Him. **48** But He replied to the man who told Him, “Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?” **49** And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! **50** For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”

[Luke 8:19-21 \(ESV\)](#)

19 Then His mother and His brothers came to Him, but they could not reach Him because of the crowd. 20 And He was told, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You." 21 But He answered them, "My mother and My brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

[Matthew 13:53-58 \(ESV\)](#)

53 And when Jesus had finished these parables, He went away from there, 54 and coming to His hometown He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? 55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And are not His brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all His sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" 57 And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." 58 And He did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

[Acts 1:12-14 \(NIV\)](#)

12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Did Jesus Have Brothers and Sisters?

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-siblings.html>

Question: "Did Jesus have brothers and sisters (siblings)?"

Answer: Jesus' brothers are mentioned in several Bible verses. [Matthew 12:46](#), [Luke 8:19](#), and [Mark 3:31](#) say that Jesus' mother and brothers came to see Him. The Bible tells us that Jesus had four brothers: James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas ([Matthew 13:55](#)). The Bible also tells us that Jesus had sisters, but they are not named or numbered ([Matthew 13:56](#)). In [John 7:1-10](#), His brothers go on to the festival while Jesus stays behind. In [Acts 1:14](#), His brothers and mother are described as praying with the disciples. [Galatians 1:19](#) mentions that James was Jesus' brother. The most natural conclusion of these passages is to interpret that Jesus had actual blood half-siblings.

Some Roman Catholics claim that these "brothers" were actually Jesus' cousins. However, in each instance, the specific Greek word for "brother" is used. While the word can refer to other relatives, its normal and literal meaning is a physical brother. There was a Greek word for "cousin," and it was not used. Further, if they were Jesus' cousins, why would they so often be described as being with Mary, Jesus' mother? There is nothing in the context of His mother and brothers coming to see Him that even hints that they were anyone other than His literal, blood-related, half-brothers.

A second Roman Catholic argument is that Jesus' brothers and sisters were the children of Joseph from a previous marriage. An entire theory of Joseph's being significantly older than Mary, having been previously married, having multiple children, and then being widowed before marrying Mary is invented without any biblical basis. The problem with this is that the Bible does not even hint that Joseph was married or had children before he married Mary. If Joseph had at least six children before he married Mary, why are they not mentioned in Joseph and Mary's trip to Bethlehem ([Luke 2:4-7](#)) or their trip to Egypt ([Matthew 2:13-15](#)) or their trip back to Nazareth ([Matthew 2:20-23](#))?

There is no biblical reason to believe that these siblings are anything other than the actual children of Joseph and Mary. Those who oppose the idea that Jesus had half-brothers and half-sisters do so, not from a reading of Scripture, but from a preconceived concept of the perpetual virginity of Mary, which is itself clearly unbiblical: "But he (Joseph) had no union with her (Mary) until she gave birth to a son. And he gave Him the name Jesus" ([Matthew 1:25](#)). Jesus had half-siblings, half-brothers and half-sisters, who were the children of Joseph and Mary. That is the clear and unambiguous teaching of God's Word.

- S. Michael Houdmann - President, GotQuestions.org

- Recommended Resources: [Jesus: The Greatest Life of All by Charles Swindoll](#) and [Logos Bible Software](#).

John Piper on the Unforgivable Sin

"What then is it? The unforgivable sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is an act of resistance which belittles the Holy Spirit so grievously that He withdraws for ever with His convicting power so that we are never able to repent and be forgiven."

Sam Storms on the Unforgivable Sin

"This was not a one-time, momentary slip or inadvertent mistake in judgment, but a persistent, life-long rebellion in the face of inescapable truth. Blasphemy of the HS is not a careless act but a calloused attitude...Blasphemy of the

HS, therefore, is not just unbelief but unashamed unbelief that arises not from ignorance of what is true but in defiance of what one knows beyond doubt to be true. It is not mere denial, but determined denial; not mere rejection, but wanton, willful, wicked, wide-eyed rejection."

D.A. Carson on the Unforgivable Sin

The NT reveals how close one may come to the kingdom - tasting, touching, perceiving, understanding. And it also shows that to come this far and reject the truth is unforgivable. So it is here. Jesus charges that those who perceive that His ministry is empowered by the Spirit and then, for whatever reason - whether spite, jealousy, or arrogance - ascribe it to Satan, have put themselves beyond the pale (of forgiveness). For them there is no forgiveness, and that is the verdict of the one who has authority to forgive sins.

The Unpardonable Sin

From The Reformation Study Bible - R.C. Sproul, General Editor

Jesus' solemn warning about a kind of sin that will not be forgiven, either in this world or the next is found in three Gospels: Matt. 12:31, 32; Mark 3:28-30; Luke 12:10. It is specifically "blasphemy against the Spirit." This blasphemy is an act performed by speaking, understood as an expression of the thoughts of the heart (Matt. 12:33-37; (Rom. 10:9, 10). In the particular context the opponents of Jesus were saying that the Power doing good works among them was not God but the devil. Jesus distinguishes between this blasphemy and other sins, both other sins of speech and other sins in general. As the Bible teaches, God forgave sins of incest, murder, lying, and even Paul's persecution of the church, which Paul did while "breathing threats and murder" against God's people (Acts 9:1).

What makes the unpardonable sin different from others is its relation to the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit's work to enlighten the mind of sinners (Eph. 1:17, 18), to reveal and teach the gospel (John 14:26), persuading souls to repent and believe the truth (cf. Acts 7:51). The Spirit not only explains the Word of God, but He opens the mind so that it is perceived (2 Cor. 3:16, 17). When His influence is deliberately and knowingly refused, in opposition to the light, then the irreversible sin can be committed as a voluntary, informed act of malice. In response there is a hardening of the heart from God that rules out repentance and faith (Heb. 3:12, 13). God permits the decision of the human will to be permanent in this case. God does not do this lightly or without cause, but in response to an offense against His love.

A person who wants to repent that is, to reverse the sins they may be guilty of, has not suffered this hardening and has not committed the profound act of hatred that God has determined He will not forgive. Anyone who has been born again will not commit this sin, because the Spirit lives in that person, and God is not divided against Himself (1 John 3:9).

The other verses dealing with the unpardonable sin are Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26-29; and 1 John 5:16, 17. These show that the possibility of this sin depends on there being particular enlightenment and understanding from God and that it is not a common, everyday matter. Jesus said "all sins" and "whatever blasphemies" will be forgiven, excepting only this one sin.

- From The Reformation Study Bible - R.C. Sproul, General Editor, Theological Note on Mark 3, p. 1421.