

## 来自家人的敌对 —— 马可福音3:20-35 (上)

### Opposition from the Family – Mark 3:20-25 (1)

#### *Introduction, outline*

- Scripture reading: Mark 3:20-35; Matthew 7:21-27.
- Teaching text: Mark 3:20-35 (NASB1995)

**20** And He \*came home, and the crowd \*gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. **21** When His own people heard *of this*, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, “He has lost His senses.” **22** The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.” **23** And He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? **24** If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. **25** If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. **26** If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but [!]he is finished! **27** But no one can enter the strong man’s house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house. **28** “Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; **29** but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— **30** because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.” **31** Then His mother and His brothers \*arrived, and standing outside they sent *word* to Him and called Him. **32** A crowd was sitting around Him, and they \*said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You.” **33** Answering them, He \*said, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” **34** Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He \*said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! **35** For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

- There are always people who naively think that the Christian faith will make them into a popular person loved by everyone. The Bible, however, says otherwise (cf. 2 Timothy 3:12, Matthew 10:34-36).
- Hudson Taylor is one of the greatest missionaries in the 19th century. For the sake of gospel, he went to China and followed the Chinese customs of dressing, taking off his long black coat, putting on the long-sleeved robe, loose trousers, thick cotton socks, and making his hairs into a big ponytail. This change brought many Chinese to him, but many original supporters from his home country England didn’t like it at all. Even some fellow missionaries in China opposed him publicly. Those who should’ve been closest to him became his enemy.
- The theme of this passage is the opposition to Jesus. Not only were the religious leaders opposing Him, even His family came out to oppose Him.
- Outline:

#### **Title: Opposition from the Family**

1. News to the Family (vv20-21a)
2. Contempt of the Family (v21b)
3. Opposition from the Family (vv31–32)

#### 4. True Family (vv33-35)

##### **News to the Family (vv20-21a)**

- “He came home”: This is probably Peter’s home, the home-base of Jesus’ early ministry (cf. 1:29; 2:1).
- “they could not even eat a meal”: They were so busy serving the crowd. Teaching, healing and casting out demons. Even though most of the crowd had wrong motives, Jesus never in the Gospels rejects the crowd who seek Him nor the opportunity to serve them.

The subject “they” includes Jesus and his disciples, all busy serving to a point they couldn’t eat. Jesus just appointed the twelve in the previous passage; and the first lesson they learned is that sometimes ministry can get so busy that you have to skip meals!

**John 4:32-34** “I have food to eat that you do not know about..... My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.” To do the will of the Father is Jesus’ food!

When you have to skip a meal to serve the Lord, remind yourself that you are enjoying the best food ever, which is also Jesus’ food! However, don’t expect others would understand and support you. They may say that you are out of your mind. That’s what Jesus’ family did!

##### **Contempt of the Family (v21b)**

- “His own people”: Verse 31 shows at least Jesus’ mother and half-brothers were there. After Mary gave birth to Jesus by the Holy Spirit, she bore four more sons to Joseph, her husband (cf. 6:3), including James, the author of the book of James, and Jude, the author of the book of Jude. They’d be used by the Lord greatly later. But they were not yet believers here.
- “He has lost His senses”: Literally, He’s “standing outside of himself.” He’s out of His mind. They say Jesus has gone mad, lost His mind, totally out of control. Why? Just because He’s too busy serving to eat. It is a shame to have a lunatic in your family, so they decided that they “went out to take custody of Him.” Let’s stop all this madness, they thought.

So the first lesson for the disciples is to skip meals, and the second, to be misunderstood by people, opposed even by your own family.

How did the family come to this conclusion? First, I believe Mary thinks differently than the brothers. It’s impossible for her to agree to this conclusion. The brothers’ conclusion is from their unbelief. Mary is probably just accompanying her kids out of her motherly love.

How did the brothers come to say Jesus is insane? Imagine, if you grew up with a holy and perfect big brother, would you like him or hate him? He is perfect in all His words, deeds, attitude and character. Whenever you sin, there’s an immediate stark contrast. Mary must’ve often said: You guys have to learn from your big brother.....

Jealousy! The best way to make others hate you is to be perfect. Just expose their sinfulness by comparison. When you live out, by the Spirit, the sanctified character more and more, and you see others hate you more and more, don’t be surprised.

- “take custody of Him”: A forceful verb, often translated as “seize”, like when the religious leaders went to seize Jesus. The brothers may’ve thought: Our big brother has gone mad, and if we don’t seize Him, the government will do, and we’ll be in big trouble then. So, let’s go and save Him from His madness! It’s a multiple day trip by foot from Nazareth to Capernaum.

【Analogy】 Some people came to Christ when they tried to “save” their family/friend out of Christianity. To their surprise, when they went to the church, heard the truth, the Holy Spirit regenerated them. They did not “save” the other person, but they were saved from their sins.

## Opposition from the Family (vv31–32)

- “Then His mother and His brothers arrived”: Jesus just responded to the opposition of the religious leaders, now His mother and brothers arrived at their heels. Mark used a sandwich structure—inserting one story into another—to compare the two for emphasis. What Jesus’ family did was the same as the religious leaders, that they both opposed Him!
- “standing outside they sent *word* to Him and called Him”: They couldn’t get in because of the massive crowd. They aren’t calling Him home for dinner, but to stop His crazy ministry.

## True Family (vv33-35)

- “Who are My mother and My brothers?”: Not to deny His family. No doubt Jesus loved His earthly family. Even when He was on the cross, He remembered to commit His mother’s care to the apostle John. It’s His love for his brothers that enabled them later to become believers and be used by God greatly. Two of them even became authors of biblical epistles.

The purpose of Jesus' questions is often to make the audience think. Here, He wants the crowd to think about spiritual reality. Jesus is by no means offending His family, but He’s taking the occasion to teach them and the crowd about some spiritual truths they need to know. Who are my spiritual mother and brothers? Who are the people that truly share my blood and my life? The physical relationship is not the most important relationship, the spiritual one is. The physical relationship is temporary, the spiritual one is eternal. Which is more important, this life or eternal life?

- “Behold My mother and My brothers!”: All the genuine followers of Jesus there, including the twelve apostles. The specific title is not important, whether mother, brother, sister, father, grandfather, grandmother, son, granddaughter... doesn’t matter. The point is simple, they are all one family in God’s home.

**1 Timothy 5:1-2** “Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but *rather* appeal to *him* as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, *and* the younger women as sisters.....”

**Mark 10:29-30** “.....there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms.....”

- “For whoever does the will of God”: What determines your relationship with Jesus is not who you say He is with your mouth, but whether you do God's will. Jesus' food is to do the will of God. Even when He is too busy to eat, even when it means the painful cross, as long as He is doing God's will, He is satisfied. This is Jesus' food! The family eats the same food, Jesus' family also does God's will as their food, sustaining their lives, This means you must first know what God's will is. But head knowledge alone is not enough, obedience is the key.

**Matthew 7:21** “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does the will of My Father** who is in heaven *will enter.*”

**John 8:31** “So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you **continue in My word**, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine”

The prerequisite of obedience is knowing God's Word; the prerequisite of knowing is regularly reading God's Word. Many professing Christians don't even read the Bible. How can one obey God's will if he doesn't even read it? How can one be a true disciple if he doesn't obey God?

When people who do God's will meet each other in their lives, they will naturally feel like family members, because they are Jesus' family. In the church, we all want to genuinely treat each other as family, but this is hard sometimes. Why? If you don't live a life of doing God's will, if you only have a profession of faith, it'd be really hard for others to treat you as family, wouldn't it? “For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

What would Jesus' brothers think when they heard this? They probably thought Him even more crazy. He was crazy to not eat food, and now, He doesn't even know His family. He's totally gone mad. So they continue rejecting Jesus (cf. 6:1-6; John 7:3-5). But what God was about to do later in their lives made us marvel again at the great power of the gospel.

**James 1:1**“James, a **bond-servant** of God and **of the Lord Jesus Christ**.....”

**Jude 1**“Jude, a **bond-servant of Jesus Christ**, and brother of James.....”

Not brothers, but bond-servants, because they obeyed His will. Jesus' brothers became Jesus' true family members, eternal family members because of this relationship.

### ***Application summary:***

Obeying God's will is the only most important thing in your life. If you are still outside of Christ, God's will for you is very simple: Repent and trust in Jesus Christ who accomplished salvation on the cross. If you are in Christ, as you seek daily to obey God's will, be prepared for opposition,