

Discover Jesus

Jesus's Family

Mark 3:20-35

²⁰ Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. ²¹ When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." ²² And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul [bee-EL-zuh-bub] [the Greek name for Satan]! By the prince of demons, he is driving out demons."

²³ So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan?" ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶ And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. ²⁷ In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possession unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house. ²⁸ I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies* of men will be forgiven them. ²⁹ But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin." ³⁰ He said this because they were saying, "He has an evil spirit."

³¹ Then Jesus's mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." ³³ "Who are my mother and my brother?" he asked. ³⁴ Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." (NIV)

*blasphemy: to speak evil against, to slander, to disrespect something holy.¹

Get it!

1. Are there any phrases or words that you need defined?
2. Where is Jesus now, and who is he spending time with? What is he doing? (vv. 20, 23)
3. Jesus is no longer living with his family in Nazareth. He is living in Capernaum. Yet, Jesus's family hears about what he is doing – healing on the Sabbath, casting out demons, forgiving sins, and teaching crowds of people about God in homes – and they come to his house. Why? What does Jesus's own family think about him? Why do you think they believe this about Jesus? (v. 21)
4. The Jewish teachers of the Law also criticize Jesus and say that he is driving out demons through the power of Satan. (v. 22) Why do you think they say this? How does Jesus respond? (vv. 23-30)
5. Jesus says that a house divided against itself will not stand. Think about Jesus's biological family. Are they united or divided with Jesus? Explain. According to Jesus, what will happen to this family? (v. 25) What could keep them together, and how do you think that would change his family?
6. Jesus compares Satan to a strong man. God's Holy Spirit is the only one who can overcome the strong man in our hearts, our lives, and the circumstances around us. We cannot do this without him. Jesus also says that if we believe and continue to believe that God's Holy Spirit is evil and criticize his work, power, and miracles, then we can never tie up the strong man. Can this person ever be forgiven? Why or why not?
7. We learn here that Jesus is not the divider of homes and families. Rather Satan is the one who divides and destroys. Even so, how does Jesus respond to his family? (vv.31-35)

¹ "989. blasphemós," *Thayer's Greek Lexicon*, electronic database (Biblesoft, 2011), <https://biblehub.com/greek/989.htm>.

8. According to Jesus, who is his family and why? What is Jesus's solution for his family, and how do you think this would change them?

Think about it!

1. Jesus was criticized by his family and others highly viewed in his society. Do your friends, family, and other members of society know you are a follower of Jesus? Have you ever been criticized for following Jesus? Share your challenges in these areas. Where can you find strength?
2. To receive encouragement when he was criticized and persecuted, Jesus spent time with his followers loving them and sharing truth with them. Who are your best friends and how often do you spend time with other believers or those genuinely seeking a relationship with Jesus? Share your challenges in these areas. According to this passage, why is this important?
3. How does putting our trust in Jesus and welcoming the Holy Spirit into our lives protect us from the strong man (or Satan)? How can we increase our faith in the Holy Spirit's power, works, and miracles?

[Watch it!](#)

(If this link is broken, please let us know.)

Live it!

1. How can you share Jesus with a family member or a friend this week?
2. Think of a believer that you want to spend time with. Write their name and reach out to them this week for coffee or a meal.
3. What is something you can do this week to grow in your faith in the Holy Spirit's power, works, and miracles?

Pray it!

1. Pray for our families and friends you want to reach and spend time with this week.
2. Pray that we grow in our faith in the Holy Spirit.