

Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him... 1 John 2:4 (ESV)

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 7:21 (ESV)

### Application

1. **My religious background and biological family are not important. What matters is, am I sitting at the feet of Jesus and doing God's will?**
2. **The unforgivable sin is permanently walking away from Jesus after experiencing the family of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. If we walk away from Jesus after knowing him, there is no plan B.**
3. **Those who sit at the feet of Jesus and obey God's will are part of a new and better family.**

### Life Group Questions

1. Read Mark 3:20-35 to familiarize yourself with the passage. What was the most interesting part of the study? What did you learn about Jesus that you did not know?
2. Many view participation in church like membership in a club or gym. What does a club or gym approach to church look like? How does understanding the church is a family change the way we think about life in the church? What do these verses teach us about life in the church? (Mark 10:29-30, Galatians 6:10, Ephesians 2:19, John 13:34-35, Hebrews 10:25, 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
3. Study verses on the unforgivable sin. (Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-29, Luke 12:10, Hebrews 2:3-4; 6:4-6; 10:26-29) How do these verses help you understand the unforgivable sin? What makes the unforgivable sin unforgivable? Why is questioning a possible supernatural occurrence not the unforgivable sin? (See 1 John 4:1-3)
4. Sometimes we think that if we just saw Jesus' miracles, it would be easy to have faith in him. How does this story disprove that assumption? Where does our faith come from? (Ephesians 2:8)
5. Jesus says those who are part of his family do not simply know him, but they obey him. Why is obedience to Christ, not just being part of the crowd around Christ, essential for a genuine relationship with him? (Mark 3:35, John 14:15, 1 John 2:4, Matthew 7:21, 1 John 4:17)

# MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

## Mark 3:20-35 – Welcome To The Family

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- A. This begins the second part of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. The intensity of everything goes up.
- B. This is a literary sandwich. Mark combines two stories to make one point.

**The Big Idea:** My religious background and biological family are not important. What matters is, am I sitting at the feet of Jesus and doing God's will?

### 1. Jesus' family thought he was insane.

Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind." Mark 3:20-21 (ESV)

*He went home...*

*The crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat.*

*When his family heard it, they went out to seize him,...*

*For not even his brothers believed in him. John 7:5 (ESV)*

*All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. Acts 1:14 (ESV)*

*Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? 1 Corinthians 9:5 (ESV)*

## 2. The religious leaders thought Jesus was demon possessed.

*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." Mark 3:22 (ESV)*

The scribes who came down from Jerusalem...

He is possessed by Beelzebul...

*Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" Matthew 12:22–23 (ESV)*

### A. Jesus showed the absurdity of their logic.

*And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end." Mark 3:23–26 (ESV)*

### B. Jesus explained what was actually happening.

*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. Mark 3:27 (ESV)*

### C. Jesus warned them of the danger that came with their decision — the unforgivable sin.

*"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"— for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit." Mark 3:28–30 (ESV)*

Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is after experiencing overwhelming evidence of Jesus' identity and the Holy Spirit's power, deciding to persistently reject Jesus. It is an unforgivable sin because there is no plan B when someone willfully and permanently walks away from Jesus and all God offers us through him.

*...how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. Hebrews 2:3–4 (ESV)*

*For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. Hebrews 6:4–6 (ESV)*

## 3. Jesus gives us a new family.

*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." Mark 3:31–35 (ESV)*

### A. Being part of Jesus' family is about sitting at Jesus' feet.

### B. Being part of Jesus' family is about obeying God's will.

*As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" Luke 11:27–28 (ESV)*