

**Jesus' Real Family**

- Dear sis/bro/Xp (and as sermon'll bear out: not just pious, Xian grtng or sermon intro; that's what I truly bel we are): Well, just us now! We as cong only have 1 pr now. And while we certly miss PW & pray God's richest blessngs on him, we do realize: things here now bit diff, w/in our fam/bels. I want you know: that's really how I feel re you, fellow membrs/SJ. You: my fam, my bro/sis/Xp. I of course have my bio fam. Wkend before last, MI for Dad's 70<sup>th</sup> bday party; next month: FL for wife's bro's wed. So I have fam in MI & FL – both hrs away. (By way, hope you nvr take for granted if you actly have fam that live nearby, in this area/town/even cong.) But what I'm saying: besides our bio fam, we also have ch fam, fellow bels here at SJ. You: my fam; that's imp to me!
- That's imp to J too. He had his earthly fam; also has sprtl fam – those who bel him Sav. I'm not here pit earthly fam vs sprtl fam; but lot times those 2 pretty diff. I have lot extended fam: unbels. Today in Gos J teaching us: our earthly fam is actly subordinate to, of lesser imprtnc than, our spirtrl fam of bels. Today J wants us realz what means be members of JRF.
- **Vs. 20.** Becomng so populr: all ppl crowdng around him; want hear what has say. But **vs. 21.** Crazy! What fam talkng here? At end lsn, **vs. 31a.** So Mary, VM, gave birth in Bthlm. Joe not mentiond; by now J 30 yrs old; so we presume Joe's already died. Then mentions bros; and psg in Mt 13 where ppl ask: **"Isn't this the carpnt'r's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his bros James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us?" (55-56).** So it's safe say: J was oldest child in fam (Joe of course not bio fr; cncvd by HS), and that Joe & Mary had at least 4 other sons & 2 dghtrs. Imagine that: to litrly be bro/sis to J! But here, his immdt fam thinks he's crazy! **Vs. 21bc.**
- Then you have what might call J's ch fam: his "prs," relgs leaders/Isrl. But **vs. 22.** So ch fam accused him: being in cahoots w/Stn. Must've been very lonely, disappntng for J to have bio fam & ch fam reject him. I suppose equally disappntng to J when we do same. J's bio fam though didn't know what doing. Well, when troubles come up in your life & you wonder why God letting this hap, you ever feel like J doesn't know what doing (doesn't have control/situatn; unable help)? Often do. J's ch fam thought actions: evil. Well, when catastrophs strikes, are we tempted think: J knows exactly what doing & purpsfly trying hurt us, punish us, get back at us for some sin we commtt'd? Smtms do. We all have tendancy to doubt J's wisdom & intentns when face troubls in life, instead trusting J. Obvsly his fam & tchrs/law didn't trust in him. They were, at least in this moment, not JRF.
- So J took this momnt to teach them, using prbls. **Vs. 23b-26.** And J's point here: look, not even logicl accuse me being in cahoots w/Stn when litrly driving out Stn's demons; doesn't make sense; that'd be house divided. We joke re house dvdd when husb is Pckers, wife Bears fan. But maybe you know: Abe Lincoln quoted this very Scrptr in speech in 1858 (before: Pres, Civ War) re deep divsn btw N/S that existed w/in country at time. **Vs. 25.** Lincoln applied that to America. J's point here: Stn's not divdd; sole purps: destroy. Nor is J divdd; sole purps: save. Two can't coexist. I'm remindd that bec we live in sinful wrld, there's often divsn w/in bio fams & w/in ch fams. I bet many of you have fam membrs: hard get along with. And sadly smtms: divsns w/in a cong, even w/in ours. Let's strive be peacemkrs. In sermon/mt, J: blessed peacemkrs. Let's try be peacemkrs and do whatever can to unite our fams & ch fam, so that we're not divdd. Scrptr: **"Whoever does not love their bro or sis, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen" (1 Jn 4:20).** Smtms fam can be hard to love! But whether talking bio fam or ch fam, (again from 1 Jn 4), **"Let us love oa, for love comes from God" (7).** May God bless us w/fams and w/a cong that are united, not divided; and may he use us to help promote that unity.
- Just think what J did to unite us, as spirtrl fam: **vs. 27.** This is prbl/prvrbl in which J saying: "Stn is a strong man, but I'm even stronger! I have tied up strong man – by living sinless life; by obeyng all God's coms perfly; by my death cross & res dead, which soon see. This: how I'm tying up strong man Stn & plundrng his house. I'm snatchng sinners from Stn's grip; I'm rescuing them from hell. Look: I'm driving out demons! I'm stronger than strong man, and I've come to plunder his house & bring you from his house to my house in hvn!" That's what J's done for you/me, to unite us as RF.

- But hand/hand w/that prom/Gos is a warning/Law. **Vs. 28-29**. Sounds awfully harsh; and sin vs HS is big subject. But I'll simply say: when you willfully & continually reject Gos of Xp as your Sav, that's sin vs HS. Rejectng Gos in unbelief is *only* sin that keeps you out/hvn. J died forgive *all* your sins; and thru faith/Xp, that forgvns is yours every day. This psg (re sin vs HS): warning not to reject Gos but to trust in Xp forever, lest you lose forgvns Xp won for you and forfeit your place in JRF.
- JRF are those who trust in him as Sav. As Xian, you are member JRF. When you baptized into Xp, God Fr adopted you; claimed you as his own; made you his own son/dghtr, own child; and J became your best big bro. All bels in J are membs JRF. That includes you! God loves you like dghtr/son. J loves you like sis/bro. And being a sis/bro to J means not only belvng in J but also living for J, obeying his coms, prioritizing his will in your life. That day in Gal, when all ppl crowded around J & mom/bros came lookng for him bec thought crazy, smone told J: **vs. 32a**. J responded: **vs. 33-35**. J was not disobeying 4<sup>th</sup> Com (Honor fr/mthr), and not rejecting earthly fam. In fact, later on, his bros became close discs; and on cross entrusted mthr Mary to disc John. But here, J was teaching ppl & us: our bio fam is subordinate to, of lesser impntc than, sprtl fam. The ties we have tog as Xians are even closer than ties we have w/fam. I bel in HCC, Com/Saints, could say Fam/God – JRF. We: JRF. In know: smtms your parents annoy you; siblings get under skin; and kids drive crazy. Smtms even like that in ch. But dear Lord, spare us that division, in our fams and in our cong. Help us to be faithful Xians in what we bel and in how we behave. And thank you, Lord, that by your grace, you have made us members of JRF.

### Mark 3:20-35

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

<sup>23</sup> So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. <sup>27</sup> In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin." <sup>30</sup> He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

<sup>33</sup> "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

<sup>34</sup> Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."