

Does Family Matter?

Mark 3:31-35

Jesus' earthly family thought he was crazy – 3:20-21

Jesus' family comes to take him away. They think he is a mentally unbalanced religious fanatic.

God's servants are often misunderstood by their contemporaries, and especially by their families.

Jesus' true family is made up of those who do his will – 3:31-35

Jesus' mother and brothers arrive from Nazareth seeking an audience with him.

In asking a rhetorical question, Jesus is not repudiating all family relationships. Instead, he is pointing out that true kinship goes beyond family ties.

If Jesus put his own relatives to the test, we cannot presume to be “in” with Jesus apart from faith and commitment.

Those who do God's will are members of the true family, and they take precedence over our earthly family.

What is God's will?

God desires that each of us be:

Saved (2 Peter 3:9; John 6:39-40)

Spirit-filled (Ephesians 5:17-18)

Sanctified (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7)

Submissive (1 Peter 2:13-15)

Suffer (1 Peter 4:19; 5:10; 2 Timothy 3:12)

Thankful (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

God's will is first and foremost a relationship with him