

Discussion Guide

Week of October 21, 2012

Mark 3:20–35

Passage Overview:

Mark 1–2 presents Jesus as King, whose kingdom comes through the gospel. In chapter 3 Jesus begins a new community, a new people of God who will embody God's kingdom. He builds this community through serving people, teaching, preaching, training, counseling, healing, and liberating. Jesus chooses leaders for the new community (3:13–19) while opposing religious leaders who reject his message and falsely accuse him of being in league with Satan (3:22–30). Jesus also talks about who members of his new community (his true family) are and who they are not (3:20–21, 31–35).

Understand God's Word—Read Mark 3:20–35.

- In vv20–21 and 31–35, what does Jesus tell us about who is in his family?
- In vv22–30, who accuses Jesus (and of what)? How does Jesus respond?

Live and Apply God's Word

- Jesus' physical family "went out to seize him" and accused him of being "out of his mind" (v21). How is this contrasted with Jesus' spiritual family (vv33–35)? What does it look like to be a member of Jesus' spiritual family? Consider the following implications:
 - As a Christian, you have the only family that really counts and really lasts.
 - That we are part of Jesus' family (with God as our Father and Jesus as our Brother-Savior) shows us that we are truly loved.
 - As Christians, we are to treat one another as brothers and sisters.
- The unforgiveable sin, the "blasphemy of the Holy Spirit" (v29) can be defined as *persistent and unrepentant resistance against the work of the Holy Spirit and his message concerning Jesus*. How have you misunderstood this passage (vv22–30)? Why is it true that someone who listens to the Holy Spirit's testimony to the truth of the gospel has no need to fear the unforgiveable sin?

Turn to God in Faith and Repentance

- How have you lived this week as a member of God's family—fully accepted, fully loved? Which more accurately describes the way that you approach God and/or the reason that you seek to obey him: a child of the King or his slave? *Remember: A child in a family obeys not in order to be loved or accepted, but because he or she is already loved and accepted.*
- How have you resisted your spiritual family by elevating your physical family? Why does membership in God's family undermine the notion that a happy family is the ultimate thing in life? Why is such a belief a form of idolatry?

Pray

Read Romans 8:15 and thank God that he has adopted you into his family. Pray for one another. Pray also for Nick & Dianna Cash who serve as missionaries with Mercy Ship.

Announcements

- Lunch on the Grounds (Oct. 28; \$5) (*Tickets on sale now!*)
- 40 Days for Life (Oct. 30, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.)
- Saturday Seminar: Eschatology (Nov. 3, 10 a.m. – noon)
- Orphan Sunday (Nov. 4)
- "One Another" Member Meeting (Nov. 4, 6–7:30 p.m.)
- Prayer for the USA (Nov. 5, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
- Adoption Roundtable (Nov. 11, 6–7:30 p.m.)