

Are You In The Family?

Mark 3:31-35

7/27/10

Introduction: The Webster dictionary defines the word “family” as a group of people united by certain convictions. They are connected together by a single purpose (**1 Corinthians 12:12-14**). The universal church is the family of God. It is not separated by denominations. As sad as it may sound, it is possible to be a part of the local church and not be connected to the universal church. In other words, we can be sitting in the church building, but not be a part of the body of Christ. Every Christian has to be born into the family of God (**John 3:3**). Singing, serving and shouting don’t save us. It is not in the performance, but through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit that places us in His family. In our lesson tonight, Jesus is teaching us the importance of His spiritual family. After examining the truths in this story, we should be able to answer the question, “Are we a part of His family?”

Verses 31-32

Tender Moment

In these verses, Jesus is teaching the people. However, in the midst of His teaching, we see Jesus’ earthly family showing **compassion** for Him. They are worried about Him and they have come to take Him back home, so that He can get some rest. The earthly family has come to help the Lord. Notice they have come together for the same purpose. They are **operating** in unity (oneness) (**Psalm 133:1-3**) (**Acts 2:46-47**). His family sent word to Him while He was handling His Father’s business. If we are not handling our Heavenly Father’s business, we really have no business at all (**Luke 2:48-50**). Our **precepts** and passion should be **driven** by the Will of our Heavenly Father. Notice Jesus is teaching, but His earthly family is on the outside of the crowd. Too many times people lose their focus and miss their blessings because they are standing on the outside. But, the closer we are to Jesus the better we become.

Verses 33-34

Tense Moment

We can see based on Jesus' response that the **arrival** of His family creates a moment of tension for everyone. Instead of stopping what He was doing and going to His mother and brothers, Jesus simply said, "Who is my mother, or my brethren?" The crowd must have been shocked. His mother must have been devastated. His brothers probably got angry. They had traveled all the way from **Nazareth** to get Him and He refused to even **acknowledge** them. It appears that He didn't love the people who loved Him. There is nothing wrong with loving your family (**1 Timothy 5:8**), but when your family's business keeps you from serving the Lord, something is wrong. There are times when your commitment to your family and your commitment to the Lord will clash. You see, every **physical** relationship in our life will end at death, but the spiritual relationship we have in Jesus is forever (**Luke 14:33**).

Verse 35

Teaching Moment

Instead of Jesus trying to ease the tension, Jesus turns it up a notch. Instead of reaching out to His earthly family, He speaks to all the members of His spiritual family. Jesus used this moment as an **opportunity** to teach some eternal truths to those who would receive it. When our lives end, nothing will matter but our relationship with Jesus. If we know Him we will go to Heaven. If we do not know Jesus, we will go to Hell (**1 John 5:12**). This world is telling us that there are many ways to Heaven. Yet, the Bible tells us that there is only one way and that is through Jesus (**John 14:6**) (**Acts 16:31**) (**Acts 4:10-12**). Notice who Jesus says is the member of His spiritual family. **Whosoever** does the will of God was a member of His family. Does this mean that people get into the Lord's spiritual family because of the things they "do"? No, the Bible is very clear that works cannot save the soul (**Ephesians 2:8-9**) (**Titus 3:5**). Jesus **DID** everything that was required to make salvation **available** to those who would believe. So, what is the "will of the Father" that Jesus is talking about? The Will of the Father is for sinners to believe on the Son. When a lost person receives Jesus as his or her Savior, they are *instantly* and *eternally* saved (**John 6:37-40**). There is one requirement and it is having faith in the **finished** work of Jesus Christ. If we believe on Him and what He did for us, we will be saved and we will receive everlasting life. But, now that you are in the spiritual family, are you guilty of putting the Lord in the back seat in your life, while other things take first place?