

# The Jefferson Spirit

Sundays at 9:00AM  
& 10:30AM

Pastor Mark Jarema

February 9, 2025



## "Called Crazy for Christ"

In **Mark 3:20-35**, Jesus faces opposition not only from religious leaders but also from His own family. As crowds gather around Him, His family thinks He has lost His mind, and the scribes accuse Him of being possessed by Satan. Jesus responds with a powerful teaching about the nature of His true family—those who do the will of God. This passage challenges us to consider where our true allegiance lies and what it means to be part of God's family.

## Scripture Reading: Mark 3:20-35 (NIV)

20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. 21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”

22 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.”

23 So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. 26 And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. 27 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. 28 Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.”

30 He said this because they were saying, “He has an impure spirit.”

31 Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.”

33 “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked.

34 Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

### Interesting facts about Mark 2:1-12:

Here are some interesting facts about Mark 3:20-35:

#### 1. Jesus’ Own Family Thought He Was Out of His Mind

In Mark 3:21, His family tries to take Him away, saying He is “out of His mind.” This shows that even those closest to Him initially struggled to understand His mission.

#### 2. The Accusation of Demonic Power

The scribes accuse Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul (Satan).

Jesus refutes them with the famous “house divided” statement (Mark 3:24-26), proving that Satan wouldn’t work against himself.

#### 3. Jesus’ Teaching on the Unforgivable Sin

The “blasphemy against the Holy Spirit” (Mark 3:29) is often debated. Jesus is warning that persistently rejecting the work of the Holy Spirit leads to spiritual hardness.

#### 4. Redefining Family

Jesus shifts the definition of family from biological ties to spiritual obedience (Mark 3:34-35).

He says that those who do God’s will are His true brothers, sisters, and mother, expanding the concept of the family of faith.

#### 5. The Setting Shows the Growing Divide



Jesus is in a crowded house, surrounded by His disciples and followers.

Meanwhile, His biological family stands outside, symbolizing their misunderstanding of His mission.

#### 6. The Contrast Between Rejection and Acceptance

His family and the scribes reject Him.

His followers, including many outsiders, accept Him as their true spiritual leader.

#### 7. Parallel with Other Gospels

This story is also found in Matthew 12:22-50 and Luke 11:14-23; 8:19-21, but Mark's version emphasizes Jesus' authority and the opposition He faced.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

January 26 - Let Pastor Mark or Doris Branch know of your interest in the Sight & Sound bus trip to see Noah. We hope to get a date in September 2025.

January 26 - Safe Sanctuary Training needs to be completed and paperwork signed.

February 2 - Holy Communion

February 8 - 3-5 Paint Day - Come join us for another afternoon of fellowship and painting.

February 9 - 10am February Birthday Celebration

February 9 - 11am Methodism 101 with Pastor Katie - RSVP to Pastor Mark or Lisa Pearre by February 2nd.

February 16 - 10am Potluck after church

February 18 - April 8th every Tuesday from 7-8pm Online Bible Study exploring Liz Curtis Higgs' bestselling book, *Bad Girls of the Bible*.

February 22 - Community Movie Night

#### **Prayer Requests:**

Don Perkins & Carol Waple requests prayers for George Willingham.

The Families of Howard Graham & Doris Branch request prayers for the passing of Cliff Graham.

The Dinsmore Family request prayers for Donnie Kolb as he had Moh's surgery on Wednesday, January 29th.

#### **Fun Quiz on Mark 3:20-35**

1. What did Jesus' family think about Him in this passage?

- a) He was a great prophet
- b) He was out of His mind
- c) He was the King of Israel
- d) He needed a vacation

2. Who accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul?

- a) His disciples
- b) The Pharisees
- c) The scribes
- d) The Roman soldiers



3. What famous statement did Jesus use to explain why Satan wouldn't work against himself?

- a) "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's."
- b) "A house divided against itself cannot stand."
- c) "Blessed are the peacemakers."
- d) "Come, follow me."

4. What sin does Jesus say will never be forgiven?

- a) Lying
- b) Stealing
- c) Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit
- d) Doubting

5. According to Jesus, who is His true family?

- a) His mother and brothers
- b) His disciples only
- c) Those who do the will of God
- d) The people of Israel

**The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit**, mentioned in Mark 3:29 (and also in Matthew 12:31-32 and Luke 12:10), is described as the one unforgivable sin.

#### **What Is It?**

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit refers to deliberately and persistently rejecting the work of the Holy Spirit, especially by attributing God's power to Satan. In the context of Mark 3:22-30, the scribes accused Jesus of casting out demons by Satan's power (Beelzebul) rather than acknowledging the Holy Spirit at work in Him.

#### **Why Is It Unforgivable?**

It's not just a single act or mistake—it's a hardened heart that continually rejects God's grace.

It's refusing to acknowledge the Holy Spirit's role in salvation, essentially rejecting God's offer of forgiveness.

Since salvation comes through the Spirit's work in drawing people to Christ (John 16:8-11), rejecting Him means cutting off the only means of receiving forgiveness.

#### **What It's NOT**

Doubting or questioning faith

Accidentally saying something wrong about the Holy Spirit

A specific sin like lying, murder, or adultery

Cursing God in anger or frustration

#### **Should Christians Worry About It?**

If you're concerned that you've committed this sin, that's a good sign—you haven't! A heart still open to repentance is not hardened beyond forgiveness. This warning was directed at people who willfully and repeatedly rejected Jesus despite clear evidence of God's power at work.

## Order of Worship

Welcome

Opening Prayer

\*Call to Worship (Congregation)

Leader: Come, all who seek to follow Christ, for He calls us into a new kind of family.

**People: We gather as brothers and sisters, united not by blood, but by faith in God's will.**

Leader: Though the world may misunderstand, and even those closest to us may question, Jesus welcomes us as His own.

**People: We come to listen, to learn, and to do the will of God, for we are His family.**

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is moving among us, calling us to stand firm in truth and love.

**All: We open our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit and worship together as the family of God! Amen!**

Children's Message

**\*God is Here, p.660 UMC Hymnal**

**Scripture Reading: Mark 3:20-35**

**Sermon: Called Crazy for Christ**

Offertory

\*Doxology - p.95 UMC Hymnal

**\*In Christ There is No East or West, p.548 UMC Hymnal**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

Leader: Let us affirm our faith together.

**All:**

**We believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
who calls us into a family not by blood,  
but by grace through faith.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
On the third day, He rose from the dead,**

ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead,  
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who moves among us,  
convicts, comforts, and empowers,  
drawing us into the family of God.  
We believe in the holy universal Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

We are called to love and serve,  
to do God's will,  
and to proclaim the Good News  
that in Christ, we are one family.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**\*Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing Light, p.671 UMC Hymnal**

\*Sending Forth

Postlude

**You are welcome to stay for the  
Methodism 101 class by Pastor Katie**

## Sermon Insights

### Sermon Lesson:

In Mark 3:20-35, Jesus redefines what it means to belong, teaching that true family is not determined by blood but by obedience to God's will. When His own family tries to seize Him, thinking He has lost His mind, and the religious leaders accuse Him of working for Satan, Jesus responds with wisdom and authority. He warns against rejecting the work of the Holy Spirit and makes a profound declaration: those who do the will of God are His true brothers, sisters, and mother. This passage challenges us to examine where our ultimate loyalty lies. Do we cling to earthly identities and expectations, or do we step into the greater family of faith, united by our commitment to follow Christ? Jesus invites us to belong—not by heritage, status, or tradition, but by our willingness to trust, obey, and live as children of God.

### Application:

#### Redefine Family Through Faith

This week, reflect on who you consider your true family. Jesus teaches that those who do God's will are His brothers and sisters. Take time to strengthen your **spiritual family**—reach out to someone in your church, pray for them, and encourage them in their faith journey.

#### Stand Firm in Your Faith

Just as Jesus faced misunderstanding and opposition, we too may experience doubt or criticism for our beliefs. When faced with challenges, **stay rooted in God's truth**. Spend time in Scripture and prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and strength to follow God's will, even when it's difficult.

#### Listen to the Holy Spirit

Jesus warns against rejecting the work of the Holy Spirit. This week, intentionally **listen for God's voice** in your daily life. Whether through prayer, reading the Bible, or moments of stillness, ask, "**Lord, what are You showing me?**" and be open to His leading in your actions and decisions.

### Conclusion:

Mark 3:20-35 challenges us to rethink what it means to belong and to whom we give our ultimate allegiance. Jesus makes it clear that true family is not just about blood ties, but about those who do the will of God. His words call us to stand firm in faith, even when misunderstood, and to embrace the Holy Spirit's work in our lives rather than resist it. As we leave today, may we walk in the confidence that we are part of God's family, united not by earthly connections but by faith, obedience, and the boundless grace of Christ. Let us go forth living as His brothers and sisters, doing His will in the world. Amen.