

The Gospel of Mark

"From a House to a Boat" Mark 3:31- 4:20

Lesson 8

- I. Jesus' True Family Mark 3: 31-35
 - a. The "sandwich" structure (bread/meat-meat/bread)
 - i. The family's accusation: family= bread (3:20-21)
 - ii. The scribes' accusation: scribes = meat (3:22)
 - iii. Jesus answers the scribes: scribes= meat (3:23-30)
 - iv. Jesus answers the family: family= bread (3:31-35)
 - b. Ambiguous Wording: Who are "his family" and what did they do?
 - i. Best translation of 3:21(a) is: "When his family heard it ... "
 - ii. Best interpretation of 3:21b is "[his family] went out to seize him ..."
 1. "They" is sometimes interpreted to be "people" other than family
 2. "They" is naturally and normally interpreted in light of 3:21a, being Jesus' own family
 - iii. It appears that Jesus' own family has lost its way, though their motives (to rescue him from others, from himself) might have been good
 - iv. Roman Catholic scholars typically interpret the "brothers" of Jesus (3:31-32) as not his full brothers, but possibly as
 1. Half brothers, sons of Joseph from an earlier, deceased wife, or
 2. Jesus' cousins (supposing that the Greek word for "brother" has, on some occasions, a reference to cousins)
 - v. Roman Catholic scholars are motivated, in part, by a belief in the perpetual virginity of Mary
 - vi. Belief that she miraculously retained her virginity even through the process of giving birth to Jesus and that for the remainder of her life she continued as a virgin
 - vii. In the vast majority of occurrences, the Greek word adelphos has the sense of "brother"
- II. Jesus' Identifies His True Family Mark 3: 31-35
 - a. His Mother and Brothers Are Outside
 - i. They are outsiders, not insiders
 - ii. Where have they been while the others have flocked around Jesus to hear his word?
 - iii. His family "called" to him
 1. In 3:13, we see that Jesus is the one who "calls" others

2. In 3:31, His family is trying to "call" him
- b. Jesus Names His True Family
 - i. Those who are already right there, hanging on his every word, are his real brothers, sisters, and mother
 - ii. Anyone who says yes to God's will is a part of Jesus' family
 1. Clinging to God's will is the pathway to intimacy with Jesus
 2. Clinging to God's will is something open to everyone, everywhere
 - 3.