

Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

G . The Second Tour of Galilee

4. Jesus Affirms the Priority of Kingdom Relationships

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #090

Base Text: MK 3.20-21, 31-35 (Parallel Texts: MT 12.46-50; LK 8.19-21)

20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so much 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."

31 ^LSo Jesus' mother and brother came to see him. ^{MT}While Jesus was still speaking to the crowd, ^Mhis mother and brothers arrived, ^{MT}wanting to speak to him. ^MStanding 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-- ^{MT}wanting to speak to you."

33 ^M*"Who are my mother and my brothers?"* he asked.

34 Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him ^{MT}and pointing to his disciples ^Mhe said,

"Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does ^{MT}my father in heaven's will-- ^Lwho continually hears and puts God's Word into practice-- ^Mthat person and is my brother and sister and mother."

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	2 nd Tour, Somewhere in Galilee
Timeline	May (Month Sixteen)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry
	G. The 2 nd Tour of Galilee
Title	4. Jesus Affirms the Priority of Kingdom Relationships

COMMENT:

The next event recorded in the gospels during Jesus' second tour of Galilee is important, for it is included in all three synoptic gospels. After dealing with the Pharisee's blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, and evil desire to see miracles, Jesus next had to deal with another disappointment: the rejection of his family. However, Jesus did this not by moping, but by staying positively focused as usual upon a kingdom perspective.

In spite of her love for Jesus and faith in him, his mother Mary had become concerned that her Son was losing his mind. After all, he was saying things about himself that only God can legitimately say. This is not normal human behavior! Jesus was both exceeding and confounding everyone's expectations at the same time, and it was confusing for even a prophet, John the Immerser. It is not surprising that Jesus' family thought he had lost touch with reality.

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Jesus had four brothers and at least two sisters. Mary and her other four sons caught up with Jesus in this early stage of his second tour of Galilee, and were seeking to take him back home. Jesus' half-brothers certainly did not believe that he was the Messiah at that point. The accusation by the Pharisees that Jesus was possessed by a demon, and was working in cahoots with the Devil was a very serious thing that deeply concerned his immediate family. So they came to get Jesus.

On his part, Jesus seized the occasion to define the priority of spiritual relationships in the Kingdom of God over earthly, natural relationships. The truth is that we were created for the family of God the Trinity. Father, Son, and Spirit are our true, eternal family. They lovingly created us, save us, and transform us into their own image. Our eternal identity is found in our relationship with the Trinity, not our temporal earthly family.

Furthermore, our relationship with fellow brothers and sisters in God's family will last forever in heaven. On earth, these are the people who have committed themselves, like we have, to obeying and serving King Jesus. Therefore, it is inevitable that we prioritize our time with other people who are passionate about learning and doing God's will, as we are, and who understand his will through his word as we do. Jesus was disappointed that his earthly family members were temporarily not in the fellowship of those who were following him in doing his Father's will, but it did not deter or bring him down in any way. He treasured his fellowship with those who were yoked with him in obedience.

As Kingdom people, we live as royal sons and daughters of the Triune God, and therefore our relationships with other Kingdom people, our earthly family, and every other human relationship as well must reflect our God-given identity. That is what Jesus believed, practiced, and taught his disciples in passages like these. We will see this truth expressed many times over the course of Jesus' life.

APPLICATION:

Our relationship with the Trinity, and the interests of God's kingdom have priority over earthly, natural relationships. That means that loving God by doing his will is more important than the interests of self, blood relatives, our culture, or nation. Jesus' example and teaching in this reading could not be more clear.

Specifically, are your husband or wife, friends, love relationships, children, siblings, relatives, company, or nation more important to you than the Trinity, and the interests of the kingdom? If so, what will you do about that?