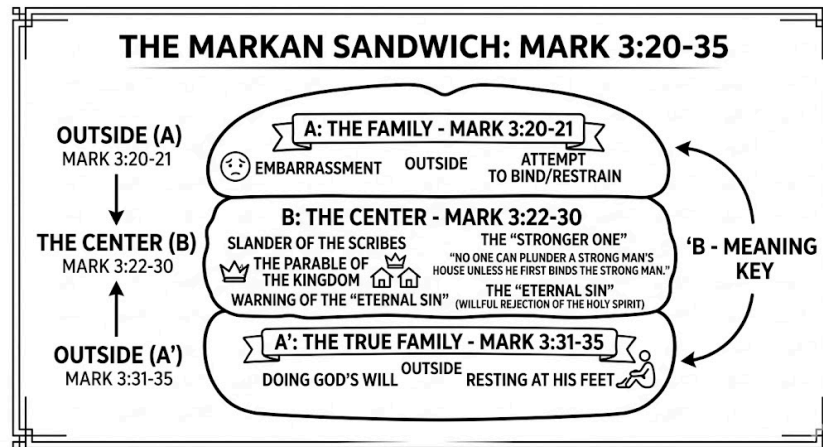


Date: May 3, 2026
Series: The Gospel According to Mark
Title: "The Insiders: Are You Family?"
Text: Mark 3:20-35



I. Like Jesus' family, those who seek a comfortable faith will always try to domesticate an untamable Savior. (20-21)

Scripture: John 7:5; 2 Corinthians 5:13

"When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

II. Like the Scribes, the person whose heart is hardened by sin will easily find reasons to reject Christ. (v. 22)

Scripture: John 12:37

"The fault was not in Jesus' doctrine, but in the Scribes' hearts. They hated Him, and therefore they were determined to find fault with Him." (J.C. Ryle)

III. As the Stronger One, Jesus enters our world to defeat the destroyer and destroy his power. (v. 23-26)

Scripture: Mark 1:7; 1 John 3:8

IV. Like the defiant Scribes, the person who **persistently rejects the Holy Spirit ultimately shuts the only door to their own rescue. (v. 28-30)**

Scripture: *Numbers 15:30–31; Isaiah 5:20; 1 John 1:9*

"[The eternal sin] is the ongoing, continual rejection of the Spirit's witness... to keep calling that light 'darkness' is to eventually lose the ability to see at all." (Kent Hughes)

V. Like the early disciples, God's family **rests at His feet so they can rise to do His will. (v. 31-35)**

Scripture: *Mark 3:14*

"Their first duty was to be his companions; to see his works, to hear his words... and to catch the fire of his zeal." (A.B. Bruce)

Discussion & Application Questions

1. In what areas of your life are you tempted to keep Jesus "safe" or "manageable" rather than letting Him be Lord?
2. Is there a "Strong Man" (a habit, an idol, or a fear) in your life right now that you have been trying to fight in your own strength rather than surrendering it to the "Stronger One"?
3. How does the promise of 1 John 1:9 ("If we confess...") provide comfort to a believer who is worried about their past or their struggles with doubt?
4. What is one practical way you can move from just being "near" Christian things (church attendance, culture) to truly being with Jesus this week?
5. Jesus' true family "rests" at His feet and "rises" to do His will. Do you tend to be a "worker" who forgets to sit with Him, or a "student" who forgets to move for Him?
6. Application: Identify one specific way in which you sense the Holy Spirit prompting you to rise up and do this week. Share it with someone so you can pray for one another.