

The Relatives of Jesus

Mark 3:31-35

Introduction:

- A. There are people that we would like to claim, others we had rather not.
- B. Text shows depicts Jesus with two kinds of *relatives* — even *you* can claim kinship to Him.
- C. Text suggests that the second set of relatives more important to Him than the first.

Discussion:

I. The Physical Relatives of Jesus (vv. 31,32).

- A. Mary — “mother of our Lord” (Lk. 1:43) — not “mediatrix of our salvation.”
 - 1. One mediator — Jesus Christ. (1 Tim. 2:5).
 - 2. One through whom prayers are offered (John 14:13,14; 16:23).
- B. Mary — his mother by miraculous conception (Mt. 1:18, 23-25).
 - 1. Legal son of Joseph — not biological (cf. Lk. 2:41; 3:23).
 - 2. Mary was virgin not merely a “young woman” as suggested by RSV of Isa. 7:14).
- C. Brothers (and sisters) present a problem to Catholic Theology (cf. Mt. 13:55,56).

II. The Spiritual Relatives of Jesus (vv. 33-35).

- A. No one forbidden to claim kin to Jesus — “Whoever...”
 - 1. Not by Calvinistic election.
 - 2. Not by direct operation theory.
 - 3. Not by waiting for a sign of God’s willingness to save. (Tit. 2:11,12; 2 Pet. 3:9).
 - 4. Only by own deceived or stubborn will.
- B. No one can claim kin to Jesus without doing something — “does.”
 - 1. Not enough to just believe — faith must act. (Jno. 12:42; Gal. 5:6).
 - 2. Not enough to just recognize Him as Lord — must act. (Matt. 7:21).
- C. No one can claim kin to Jesus with doing the “will of God.”
 - 1. Can be active in religion — still wrong. (Mt. 7:22,23; Acts 8:27).
 - 2. Can be active in “praising God” — still be wrong. (Mt. 15:8,9).
 - 3. Can be active in worship — in vain (Mt. 15:9, 13, 14).
 - 4. Can be active in preaching — without God. (2 John 9-11).
 - 5. Can be active in “good works” — still need salvation (Acts 10:2; 11:14).

Conclusion:

- A. Why not claim your kinship to Jesus today?
- B. Why not obey gospel? Be restored? Be faithful?