

THE FAMILY OF GOD

MARK 3:31-35

I. The Family.

Mark 3:31 There came then his
brethren and his mother, and,
standing without, sent unto
him, calling him.

A. Jesus' mother and brothers.

1. His half-brothers were James, Joses, Judah, and Simon.

2. His mother was Mary.

B. What Do Catholics Actually Believe About Mary?

The Catholic Church has always celebrated Mary. Everything we believe leads us closer to Jesus. What Catholics believe about Mary can be summarized in 5 key teachings:

**1. Theotokos: Mary is the
Mother of God.**

2. Perpetual Virginity: Mary was a virgin before, during, and after the birth of Jesus.

**3. Immaculate Conception:
Mary was conceived without
original sin.**

**4. Assumption: Mary was taken
body and soul into heaven.**

**5. Co-redemptrix, Mediatrix,
and Advocate: Mary plays a
unique role in redemption.**

**Dynamic Catholic. (2021). Catholic Beliefs About
Mary. [https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/rosary/
what-catholics-believe-about-mary.html](https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/rosary/what-catholics-believe-about-mary.html)**

C. Mary's Pregnancy and the Birth of Jesus.

The biblical accounts of the events leading up to Christ's birth share parallels with several accounts of women who gave birth to a special son through unusual circumstances, including (Cavalletti, "Judíos," 1024–25):

- Sarah, the mother of Isaac (Gen 18);
- Minoah's wife, the mother of Samson (Judg 13);
- Hannah, the mother of Samuel (1 Sam 1); and
- Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist (Luke 1:36).

Parallels between these accounts and the accounts regarding Mary include the following:

- In each account, God overturns the laws of nature to bring about the birth of a child. Sarah, Minoah's wife, Hannah, and Elizabeth were all barren prior to God's intervention. God similarly performed a miracle through Mary's virgin pregnancy (Matt 1:20; Luke 1:35).

- With the exception of Hannah, each of these women receives news of her upcoming pregnancy from an angel.

- Both Hannah and Mary perform a song of praise (1 Sam 2:1–10; Luke 1:46–55). Their songs have very strong literary and theological connections.

These parallels suggest that the authors of the Gospels viewed these Old Testament accounts as prefigurations of Mary's giving birth to Christ.

Acosta, D. R. (2016). Mary, Mother of Jesus. In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, ... W. Widder (Eds.), The Lexham Bible Dictionary. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

Mark 3:32 And the multitude
sat about him, and they said
unto him, Behold, thy mother
and thy brethren without seek
for thee.

II. The Question.

Mark 3:33 And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren?

Mark 3:34 And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

Our Lord was not being rude to His family when He remained in the house and did not try to see them.

He knew that their motives were right but their purpose was definitely wrong. If Jesus had yielded to His family, He would have played right into the hands of the opposition.

The religious leaders would have said, “See, He agreed with His family — He needs help! Don’t take Jesus of Nazareth too seriously.” Instead of giving in, He used this crisis as an opportunity to teach a spiritual lesson: His “family” is made up of all those who do the will of God.

Our Lord's half brothers were not believers (John 7:1–5) and Jesus felt closer to the believing publicans and sinners than He did to James, Joses, Judah, and Simon, His half-brothers.

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible exposition commentary (Vol. 1, p. 120). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

III. The Answer.

**Mark 3:35 For whosoever shall
do the will of God, the same is
my brother, and my sister, and
mother.**

It can easily be imagined what this statement meant to the original readers of Mark's Gospel. "In place of broken family relations, ostracism and persecution, was the close and intimate relation to the Son of God" (Grant, p. 694).

Wessel, W. W. (1984). Mark. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke* (Vol. 8, p. 646). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

IN SUMMARY

- THE WILL OF GOD IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FAMILY.
- TO GET INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD YOU MUST DO GOD'S WILL.

"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26)