

CURRENT SERMON SERIES

DEFINING MOMENTS

LIFE GROUP SPRING WEEK - Faith and Family

Big Idea: *It is a defining moment for our faith when we realize that our loyalty to God, Family, and Country has a pecking order.*

Read Mark 3: 20-35

1. In this passage Jesus' family is obviously confused, embarrassed, or angered by Jesus' ministry. What concerns from family might disrupt your obedience to following Jesus? Explain.
2. The Jewish leaders saw Jesus' ministry and teachings as a threat to their Jewish religious and national identities. As a result, they hated Him. Share some examples where the values of our country feel threatened by the values of Christ.
3. When Jesus was told that His family was there to take charge of him, He responded by pointing to His followers and saying, *"here are my mother and brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."* The implication is that Christ expects our loyalty to remain with Him when our families expectations want something else. How does that make you feel?" Explain.
4. Share a time you allowed family responsibilities/expectations to be an excuse to NOT serve God. What was the outcome?
5. In this passage Jesus' family calls Him insane and the religious leaders call Him demon possessed. Both groups misunderstood Him and responded by becoming critical. What is the danger of

becoming critical towards Christ when we don't understand how he is working in our life or in the world? What attitude or belief residing within us feeds a critical spirit?

Prayer: *Spend time praying about the specific instances that family expectations, social norms, or national heritage pulls us away from our loyalty and obedience to Christ. Ask God to help us be fully devoted to Him and to give us courage to chose Him when our family expectations or our country's values put pressure on us to not follow Christ.*