

Bible chat notes week starting 23 5 21

Our story today begins and ends with a surprising interaction between Jesus and his family.

Read Mark 3: 20 - 21.

1. Explain why Jesus' family made such a worrying assessment of him. Try to get into the head of Jesus' siblings and mother - did they have a right to feel the way they did? What were their concerns?

Read Mark 3: 31 - 35.

2. Jesus' family have arrived at the house and are waiting outside. How would you feel if your family member behaved as Jesus did here?
3. Family could be a very constraining thing in Bible times. Why does Jesus need to break free from these constraints? Discuss the proper balance for us between family obligations and wider Christian service.
4. What positive message do we take from these verses?

In between all this, some teachers of the law have been challenging Jesus.

Read Mark 3: 22 - 27.

1. Do the teachers of the law seriously think Jesus is possessed by some demon chief? If so, what makes them think that?
2. Describe in your own words Jesus' argument against them.

Read Mark 3: 28 - 30.

3. What could it mean to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit and how would that make it an eternal, unforgivable sin?
4. How would you respond to someone who feared they had committed the unforgivable sin?

David's talk suggested we might pray by becoming a living prayer - having our hearts despised towards blessing, as well as by praying in words. Discuss this idea.