

# The Opposers

## Mark 3:20-35

### Into the Lesson:

In anticipation of the first appearance of the mother of the Lord (and his brothers) in this gospel account, spend some time reflecting on the events in young Mary's life that brought her to this point:

Luke 1:26-28-

Luke 1:39-44-

Luke 2:25-38-

Assuming Mary was in her early teens when Jesus was born, approximately how old would she have been in this encounter and what role would those early encounters had on her?

### Into the Word:

Reread Mark 3:20-35 and comment on the "contact" and "impact" of Jesus' ministry to this point and contrast with what had been the norm up to this point for the Children of Israel.

How would the "clarity" and "authority" of Jesus' teaching have been received by the religious leaders of the day?

After reading Mark 3:31-35 how do you suppose (and its pure speculation) that Mary had gone from "treasuring these things in her heart" to thinking, "He is out of his mind" (v.20)?

What evidence do we see later her return to her son's side?

How may the Scribes accusations and threats play a role in Mary and sons' belief that "he has lost his mind?"

Could this then be a protective step by his family?

How does Jesus' apparent rebuff to his family (vv.33-34) provide a sense of inclusion for the crowds that are following Him?

How would the ultra-logical response to the Scribes accusation (v.22) further enflamed them and their desire to be rid of Jesus?

### Into Life:

Does the "unvarnished" truth of Mark 6:4 enhance or detract from your belief in truth of the gospel narrative?

What is the evidence we see in our culture that "family is everything"?

How must we respond to those who claim, "I'm spiritual, I think Jesus was a great teacher"

How would the "clarity" and "authority" of Jesus' teaching be received by those mentioned above?

How do we translate the concepts of "contact" and "impact" and the unique nature of Valley Christian Church among the "sea of churches in our community"?

What needs to happen in our lives to make sure we don't appear as "those who are supposed to care the most about God" but...?

Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother. Mark 3:34-35