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).
      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).
      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?