

Mark 3:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.

Analysis

When his friends heard they went out to lay hold on him for they said He is beside himself. Friends hoi par autou those with Him relatives family members. Heard akousantes heard reports. Went out exēlthon came out to intercede. Lay hold kratēsai seize restrain take custody. Him Jesus. They said elegon imperfect continuous saying. He is beside himself exestē lost His senses gone mad. Family thought Jesus crazy. Extreme claim extreme ministry provoked extreme reaction. Religious leaders said He had demon family said He was insane. Opposition came from unexpected quarters. Jesus ministry so radical even family misunderstood. Cost of obedience to God may include family opposition misunderstanding. Reformed theology acknowledges faithful ministry often brings reproach misunderstanding even from loved ones. Truth offense to natural mind.

Historical Context

This occurs during intense ministry crowds pressing inability to eat (3:20). Family feared Jesus was overworking endangering Himself. Good intentions wrong conclusion. Mary His mother and brothers came later (3:31). They lived in Nazareth Jesus in Capernaum. News reached them prompted intervention. First-century culture family honor paramount. Unusual behavior brought shame. Jesus unconventional ministry raised eyebrows. His brothers did not believe until after resurrection (John 7:5). Even Mary sometimes struggled to understand (Luke 2:50). Jesus later taught that discipleship requires putting Him above family

loyalty. Early Christians faced family opposition for faith. Converted Jews disowned by families. Faithfulness to Christ transcends family ties.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does family thinking Jesus mad demonstrate that even those closest may misunderstand when you obey God radically?
2. What does Jesus experience of family opposition teach about cost of following God call?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀκούσαντες	οἱ	παρ'	αὐτόν·	ἐξῆλθον	κρατῆσαι
And	heard	G3588	friends	on him	of it they went out	to lay hold
G2532	G191		G3844	G846	G1831	G2902
αὐτόν·	ἔλεγον	γὰρ	ὅτι	ἐξέστη		
on him	they said	for	G3754	He is beside himself		
G846	G3004	G1063		G1839		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 26:24 (Parallel theme): And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

John 10:20 (Parallel theme): And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?

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

2 Corinthians 5:13 (Parallel theme): For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause.

2 Kings 9:11 (Parallel theme): Then Jehu came forth to the servants of his lord: and one said unto him, Is all well? wherefore came this mad fellow to thee? And he said unto them, Ye know the man, and his communication.

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