

# Mark 3:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him,  
Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee.

## Analysis

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The multitude sat around Jesus, creating intimate teaching setting. Someone informed Him: 'Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee.' The word 'without' (ἔξω) emphasizes physical and spiritual separation—they're outside the circle of disciples, outside the place of teaching. The verb 'seek' (ζητοῦσιν) can imply urgent searching. This sets up Jesus' profound redefinition of true family relationships based on spiritual kinship rather than biological ties. The contrast between those 'without' and those sitting at Jesus' feet listening is deliberate.

## Historical Context

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In honor-shame culture, family relationships determined identity and social standing. To ignore family, especially mother, violated cultural norms and brought shame. For messenger to announce family's presence created expectation Jesus would interrupt teaching to attend them—honoring mother was fifth commandment requirement. Jesus' response would shock His audience, demonstrating kingdom priorities transcend traditional family structures. Early Christians experienced this tension as conversion often divided families (Matthew 10:34-37), requiring choosing Christ over family when conflicts arose.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

### Study Questions

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1. How does this passage challenge idolatrous elevation of family above Christ?
2. What does being 'inside' versus 'outside' Jesus' circle reveal about spiritual relationships?
3. How do you respond when family obligations conflict with kingdom priorities?

### Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἐκάθητο ὄχλος περὶ αὐτῷ εἶπον δὲ αὐτῷ  
**And** **sat** **the multitude** **about** **him** **they said** **and** **him**  
G2532 G2521 G3793 G4012 G846 G2036 G1161 G846

Ἰδοὺ, ἡ μήτηρ σου καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοί σου ἔξω  
**Behold** **mother** **thy** **And** **brethren** **thy** **without**  
G2400 G3588 G3384 G4675 G2532 G3588 G80 G4675 G1854

ζητοῦσίν σε  
**seek for** **thee**  
G2212 G4571

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