

Mark 3:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

Analysis

Jesus 'looked round about on them which sat about him' with deliberate gaze, then declared: 'Behold my mother and my brethren!' The circular look includes all disciples sitting at His feet. The emphatic 'Behold' (ἴδε) commands attention to profound truth: spiritual family supersedes biological family. Those positioned 'about him' (περὶ αὐτόν)—in intimate circle of discipleship—constitute His true family. This doesn't dishonor Mary or half-brothers but establishes kingdom priority: relationship with Christ through faith creates family bonds stronger than blood. Reformed theology emphasizes union with Christ as foundation of all spiritual blessings and relationships.

Historical Context

In ancient world, family provided identity, security, inheritance rights, and social standing. To claim new family based on spiritual rather than biological ties was revolutionary. Jesus' declaration anticipated church as family of God—believers from all nations united as brothers and sisters (Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 2:19). Early Christians called each other 'brother' and 'sister,' sharing resources and treating spiritual family as primary identity. This sometimes caused conflict with biological families who viewed Christianity as betrayal of ancestral religion and family honor.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does viewing fellow believers as your true family affect church commitment and relationships?
2. What practical implications does spiritual family have for how you relate to brothers and sisters in Christ?
3. How do you balance honoring biological family while prioritizing spiritual family?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	περιβλεψάμενος	κύκλῳ	οἱ	περὶ	αὐτὸν	
And	he looked	round about	on them which	about		G846
G2532	G4017	G2945	G3588	G4012		
καθημένους	λέγει	Ἴδε	οἱ	μήτηρ	μου	καὶ
sat	and said	G1492	on them which	mother	my	And
G2521	G3004		G3588	G3384	G3450	G2532
οἱ	ἀδελφοί	μου				
on them which	brethren	my				
G3588	G80	G3450				

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:29 (Parallel theme): For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

