

# 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

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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 αὐτοῦ)—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

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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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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

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καὶ περιβλεψάμενος κύκλῳ οἱ περὶ αὐτὸν  
And he looked round about on them which about G846  
G2532 G4017 G2945 G3588 G4012

καθημένους λέγει Ἰδε 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

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**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.

