



Week of June 10, 2018

Mark 3:20-35

²⁰ and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.

²¹ When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind."

²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons."

²³ And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan?"

²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come.

²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸ "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter;

²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"--

³⁰ for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

³¹ Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him.

³² A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you."

³³ And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"

³⁴ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!

³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. Are you a conformist? When have you been thought of as the "oddball" – and how did you feel about that?
- B. When you are on a team, are you more concerned with results or harmony?

Bible Study Questions:

1. In verse 22, why do you think the scribes attribute Jesus' power to the devil rather than to God?
2. Paraphrase Jesus' argument for why it is impossible to say that he is casting out demons by the power of Satan.
3. Parse verse 29 very carefully and discuss what it would mean to have a sin that would not be forgiven:
 - a. What do you think it means to "blaspheme against the Holy Spirit"? Consider your answer in light of verse 30 ("for they had said 'He has an unclean spirit.'") [Hint: by what power is Jesus actually casting out demons?]
 - b. When it says, "can never have forgiveness" – is this because God would refuse to forgive the person or such a person would never turn toward God?
4. In verse 35, why do you think Jesus is emphasizing "doing" the will of God?
5. The scribes are guilty of looking at the good Jesus is doing (casting out demons) and calling it bad (ascribing it to Satan). Discuss some examples in our present time where things that appear to be good are dismissed as bad.
6. What changes in the church-at-large have you seen where you have questioned whether it is a legitimate move of God?
7. Where have you seen God moving in the world in ways that have surprised you?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about ways in which each person can see God moving in the world.