

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 7: Mark 3:20-35

Jesus is wrongly associated with Satan (vv. 20-30)

Matt. 12:22-32
Luke 11:14-22

- This passage uses intercalation (bracketing or sandwiching)
 - Those close to Jesus appear at the beginning and the end
- Apparently, Jesus and His disciples are too busy to even eat
- “His own people” may have been family or friends
 - His supposed lack of self-care makes them think he’s lost His mind
- The scribes have come from Jerusalem to investigate Jesus
 - They take it a step further, claiming Jesus is possessed by Satan
- Matthew and Luke record Jesus healing a demon-possessed man
- Beelzebul was a Canaanite deity (“Lord of the House”)
 - Beelzebub was a mocking nickname (“Lord of the Flies”) – 2 Kings 1:2-3, 16
- Jesus utilizes three “parables” to counter the accusations
 - The divided kingdom (v. 24)
 - The divided house (v. 25)
 - Binding the strong man (v. 27)

What is Jesus explaining with the “strong man” illustration?

- Jesus uses a unique pronouncement formula for the first time here
 - “amen” comes from a word group meaning faithful or reliable
 - “amen” + “I say to you” = a Christological affirmation (Lane, NICNT)
 - He declares that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is unforgivable

Why is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit the only unforgivable sin?

How does this transfer to our modern day?

True family honors God’s will (vv. 31-35)

Matt. 12:46-50
Luke 8:19-21

- His mother and brothers finally arrive from Nazareth
 - They choose to wait outside and call for Him (to come home)
- Jesus stays and says His true family are those living in God’s will

What was it that really put Jesus’ physical family on the outside spiritually?

How do we coordinate family obligations and our service to the Lord?