

Jesus the Strongest
Mark 3:20-35
Series: Christ Our Focus

1. Introduction
 - a. Mark is telling a story using the sandwich method
 - i. A1 – B – A2
 - ii. A1 – The Friends, B – The Pharisees, A2 – His Mother and Brothers
 - iii. All three stories feature someone or a group trying to restrain Jesus

2. Verse 20-21—A1—His own people
 - a. The house is so crowded that they are not able to eat
 - i. Ministry comes with sacrifices
 - b. They went out to lay hold of him, for they said, “He is out of His mind.”
 - i. The Greek construct is that they went out to seize him because they thought he had gone berserk
 - ii. This is an attempt to bind Christ and stop him.
 - iii. His own people do not accept the truth of who Christ is.
 1. There will be division in our own acquaintances
 2. Many have been accused of going insane in becoming Christians
 3. **Luke 12:51-52** Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. (52) For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three.

3. Verse 22—B—The Scribes
 - a. This now becomes an official response by the authorities.
 - b. Opposition is bolder and more confrontational
 - i. No longer posing question but now there is an open defiance
 - ii. They pass judgment – Jesus is possessed by the devil
 1. If this is true, then Jesus is the worst of false teachers and should be shun by all who are seeking God.

2. They recognize the power that flows from Christ but they impugn the source of his power ascribing it to Beelzeboul rather than God
 - c. This is proof that faith and unbelief are not the result of proofs.
 - i. The scribes have seen the miracles and yet they do not believe
 - ii. Faith, in other words, is not an automatic, inevitable, or necessary consequence of witnessing the acts of God.
 - iii. Faith – judges that the works and teachings of Christ are in harmony with the character of God—they have saving significance;
 - iv. Disbelief – judges that the person and work of Jesus derive not from God but, as the scribes suggest in this instance, from the devil.
 - d. Beelzeboul – the true Greek rendition
 - i. Meaning – Baal the prince; Baal’s abode or dynasty
 - ii. Baal was the chief rival of true God worship
 - iii. In this instance he is seen as the Lord of the dynasty of demons
4. Verses 23-27 – Christ response to their accusation
- a. Verse 23-26 – spoke to them in parables – figurative and symbolic language
 - i. If the work of Jesus is opposed to Satan, then how could Jesus be empowered by Satan.
 1. Satan would be working against himself
 - ii. Kingdom; house have image of strong realms
 - iii. Satan would destroy himself –
 - iv. What Jesus had demonstrated were not lying wonders.
 1. Christ had emphatically attacked the kingdom of darkness repeatedly and caused it much harm.
 - b. Verse 27 – Binding the strong Man first
 - i. Satan is pictured as a strong man
 - ii. Christ is the strongest and can bind Satan
 1. Christ cant take away his possessions
 2. Anyone not in Christ is a possession of the enemy
 - a. **Ephesians 2:3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and

were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

- iii. This is the ministry of the Servant of the Lord as prophesied:
- iv. **Isaiah 49:24-26** Can the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued? (25) For thus says the LORD: "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued, for I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children. (26) I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with wine. Then all flesh shall know that I am the LORD your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."
- v. **Jesus is the fulfillment of John the Baptist prophecy: Mark 1:7** And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.
- vi. Christ does something for humanity before he can do something to it – liberating humanity before saving it.
 - 1. **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- c. Jesus does not compromise or coexists with evil – he conquers it.

5. Verses 28-30 – the unpardonable sin

- a. Not the normal Greek word for sin – *hamartema* –sinful acts and wrongful deeds opposes to the nature and motives of sin
- b. Called eternal sin
 - i. denotes "an act of disobedience to Divine law"
- c. Christ through the Spirit binds the evil one but these scribes attribute the working of the Spirit to demons.
- d. From His baptism Jesus had been authorized by God's spirit.
 - i. Those that willingly refuse to recognize the light given will be cast out in outer darkness
 - ii. **John 3:19-21** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness

rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (20) For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. (21) But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."

- iii. It is religious people that are the ones in greatest danger of committing this sin because of their self-righteousness and pride.
 - e. If you are worried that you have committed this sin, then you haven't.
 - f. Implications –
 - i. These men could never be forgiven
 - ii. The godhead of the Spirit of God – Blaspheming is a sin against God.
6. Verses 31-32—A2 His Family—Who is my Mother and family
- a. Mother and Brothers – undermines the Catholic teaching
 - b. A message to the Lord
 - c. They want to take him home.
 - d. They assume that he will come out to them because of their relationship
7. Verses 33-35 – The Divine Response
- a. Those that assume that they are close to Jesus should think again; those who assume that they are far from him should take hope
 - b. Jesus redefines family
 - i. Blood relationship cannot claim privilege
 - 1. **John 1:12-13** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (13) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - ii. Those that sit around and do God's will are his family
 - iii. There are only two kinds of people
 - 1. Those who sit and do in the inside
 - 2. Those who stand outside with false assumptions
 - 3. Anyone can be insider
 - iv. A lesson James learned well

1. **James 1:1** James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

8. Benediction—

a. **Hebrews 3:7-8** Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, (8) do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,