

Message #10**Mark 3:22-30**

Henry Caswall was a protestant theologian back in the days of Joseph Smith, the immoral heretic and founder of Mormonism. Mr. Caswall was a professor of theology in the 1800's when Joseph Smith was making his fraudulent claims. One of the false claims that Smith made was that he was some Biblical scholar and linguist, who was able to translate languages. So on April 19, 1842, Mr. Caswall took Smith an old copy of a Greek text of the Psalms and asked him to identify it. Anyone who knew Greek would easily be able to do this and Smith was claiming he knew Greek. Not knowing that Mr. Caswall was very skilled in Biblical languages, Smith said it was some old Egyptian writing. Joseph Smith was shown to be what he was, a religious con artist liar.

There will literally be thousands of people who will end up in hell forever because they followed the lies and the deceptions of Joseph Smith. There will be thousands of people who will end up in hell because they follow the lies and deceptions of Muhammad. There will be thousands of people who will end up in hell because they will follow the lies and deceptions of Charles Russell. There will be thousands of people who will end up in hell because they follow the lies and deceptions of some Pope from Rome. These will be people who would rather believe in themselves and their religious systems rather than Jesus Christ.

FALSE RELIGIOUS SYSTEMS TRY TO GET PEOPLE TO FOLLOW THEM BY DEMEANING AND DISCREDITING THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST, AND THOSE WHO FOLLOW THEM WILL END UP IN ETERNAL HELL.

They cannot deny Jesus Christ was actually here on earth, but what they can do is twist the truth about Him in an attempt to get people to believe what isn't accurate.

It has been that way since the days of Christ. Jesus Christ was the talk of the world when He was here on earth. He was performing amazing miracles and He was powerfully preaching and teaching and it was impacting everyone. The miracles that He performed could not be denied and those miracles proved that He was telling the truth about who He was and about what He could and would do. He was the God/King/Messiah/Savior. He was the Son of God.

One of the things that He was preaching and teaching was that He was God (Mark 2:5) and He was the only One who could take away sin (Mark 2:10). When some from His own family heard what He was doing and saying, they said, "He has lost His senses" (3:21). Some from his own family thought He had a mental break down.

Another thing that Jesus had been doing as He had been circulating through Galilee was casting out demons. Any time He would cast out a demon, the demon would identify Him as being "the Holy One of God" (1:24) or "the Son of God" (3:11). Now the people who had been there witnessing this heard these demonic declarations. They had seen it with their own eyes.

News had spread to Jerusalem about Jesus. The religious leaders were hearing about a powerful preacher and teacher who was doing some amazing things in Galilee and influencing a lot of people. The Jerusalem religious leadership was threatened by Him. He was not from their system of religion. He was not part of their schools. He was some outsider, who was impacting the world and they did not like that.

Instead of praying and carefully searching the Scriptures to determine if He met the Biblical criteria for being the Son of God, they were jealous of Him and outright rejected Him. Scribes in Galilee have already falsely accused Him. They accused Him of blasphemy (2:6-7). They accused Him of associating with sinners (2:16). But they had not been able to put a dent in His impact, so it was time for the big guns from Jerusalem to get involved.

We know from **Mark 3:6** that the Pharisees were conspiring with the Herodians as to how they could get rid of Jesus Christ. They apparently came up with an initial plan. The plan was to bring in the big scholars from Jerusalem to try to discredit Him.

In **verse 22** we are introduced to a new specialized religious group that was headquartered in Jerusalem. **These men were known as the “Scribes from Jerusalem.”** Mark is the only one who points this out. Obviously Peter had told him what happened. These were the elite scholars of the religious hierarchy in Jerusalem. These were the PhD seminary scholars.

These were men skilled in O.T. law and the traditions invented by men. These Scribes traveled some 80-85 miles not just to see Jesus Christ, their goal was to discredit and destroy Him. They “came down from Jerusalem” which means they geographically descended in elevation even though they are traveling north and they also descended in the sense of they thought of themselves as lowering themselves from their high religious perch to condescend to the Galileans.

Now the Scribes came up with a careful plan. They could not deny the fact that He could cast out demons. They could not influence people by trying to deny what they had seen and heard. So they came up with an ingenious plan. Their plan was to travel around Galilee telling people that Jesus was from the Devil and everything He was doing was from the Devil. In fact, they told people He was actually possessed by Beelzebul, who was the ruler of the demons. **This would explain why demons would obey Him because He was a devil in charge of them.**

Now the name “Beelzebul” literally means “Lord of flies” and is connected to “dung.” This title refers to the fact that Satan and demons are involved in gross, vile and filthy things (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 79). This may be a reference to Satan or a key demon in charge of all other demons.

These leaders left Jerusalem with the sole purpose of lying about Jesus Christ so they can reclaim their religious status. Regardless of this, to accuse Jesus Christ, the Holy Son of God, of being possessed by this satanic spirit is an evil allegation. Now the leaders know that they can get a listening audience on this point because people tend to blame Satan for all kinds of things. They accuse Jesus of being “an undercover agent for Satan.”

I want you to carefully observe how these religious leaders attack Jesus Christ by their words and false theology and false allegations. **False religion will always attack the Person and the Work of Jesus Christ.**

Now Jesus is not threatened or intimidated by these frauds in any way. What Jesus decided to do, according to **verse 23**, was to call these Scribes to Himself and speak to them in parables. Now the word “parables” can mean to speak by using analogies, illustrations and even riddles. G. Abbott-Smith says this word means to give a comparison or an illustration beside something in order to teach a point (*Ibid.*, p. 338).

Jesus decides to call these high-powered, highly educated Scribes in before Him and confront them straight up. This marks a major turning point in the way He addresses these guys. Now He actually makes a series of seven different statements that are aimed straight at these self-righteous pharisaical Scribes. These statements will really back these boys into a corner:

STATEMENT #1 – How can Satan cast out Satan? 3:23

The fact is Satan cannot cast out Satan. Satan would love to control every person in the world. The last thing he would do would be to come out of someone he did not have to come out of. That is obvious from the glimpses we get of demon-possessed people in this book. Those demons did not want to leave the people they possessed. Satan would not cast out Satan. Jesus says do you really think Satan would try to topple himself? If you divide your own kingdom, it is suicidal.

STATEMENT #2 – No divided Kingdom can stand. 3:24

The “if” clause is third class conditional, which speaks of future probability. Most of the time the kingdom would not stand, but there could be exceptions to the rule. These Scribes certainly knew about a divided kingdom. This certainly would hit the heart of those in Israel because Israel had been a divided kingdom. The division of Israel to the north and Judah to the south came about because of a civil war between Jeroboam and Solomon’s son Rehoboam (I Kings 12).

We are living in a time when there is much talk about division. We have some political divisions in Washington. We have major divisions in morality. We have talk of some racial divisions. Any divided kingdom will not stand. Ultimately what you have in a divided kingdom is civil war.

STATEMENT #3 – No divided House can stand. 3:25

The “if” clause is third class conditional, which speaks of future probability. Most of the time the house would not stand, but there could be exceptions to the rule. Now King David was promised that his house would stand forever (II Sam. 7:16). Anyone knows this. When you have constant war within, the house will not stand.

The marriage will fall apart and the children won't have a chance. The same is true with a church. A strong unified church stands, but take a church with divisions and down it will go.

STATEMENT #4 – No divided Satan can stand. **3:26**

The “if” clause is first class conditional, which speaks of factual certainty. At no time could Satan stand with a divided kingdom. The point Jesus is making here is that if Satan rose up against himself, his own kingdom would not stand. The very fact that the demons were still possessing people proves Satan's kingdom is not divided or defeated.

Just logic tells you that Jesus cannot be casting out demons from a satanic basis because that would mean Satan is against himself.

STATEMENT #5 – No thief can enter a strong man's house and take his stuff unless the strong man is tied up. **3:27**

Now the conjunction “but” that begins the verse clearly connects us to the previous statement. Jesus basically is saying Satan is a strong man who would never willingly destroy or topple himself; however, My presence here is destroying him which proves I am not satanic.

Christ is using a home invasion to illustrate the fact that He has come into Satan's domain and is the stronger of the two because He is binding up the strong Satan and seizing his property. Jesus has come into a satanic world and is taking property that belonged to him.

STATEMENT #6 – All sins including all blasphemous sins shall be forgiven. **3:28**

Now **verse 28** begins with the adverb “truly” which is designed to place a solemn emphasis on the statement. When Jesus uses this at the beginning of something, He says He wants it viewed as a very serious and authoritative declaration.

Now the statement is “all things shall be forgiven the sons of men.” Do you get this point? Another way to say this is any sin you have ever committed may be forgiven you. Do you see what is said here? “All sins.” This includes all different types of sins and all different numbers of sins. The word “forgiven” means completely gone; sent away; removed.

Now think of the grossest sins you have ever committed: Abortion, Addiction, Adultery, Immorality, Lying, Cursing, Drunkenness, Perversion, Homosexuality, Lesbianism, Stealing, Cheating, Idolatry, Arrogance, Pride—you name it. Jesus Christ will forgive all of your sins. As John would later say, **“the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin”** (I John 1:7).

Jesus Christ is prepared to forgive any sin committed by any sinner. If a sinner will believe on Jesus Christ, he may be forgiven of any sin, including even blasphemous sins. These are sins in which you may have blasphemed God or Jesus Christ.

STATEMENT #7 – Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. 3:29-30

There is one sin that Jesus says will never be forgiven. There is one sin that these Scribes could commit that would guarantee they would go to hell and that sin is to blaspheme the Holy Spirit. The idea of being “guilty of an eternal sin” is the idea of committing a sin that is not forgivable that will actually put one in hell.

Now there are different unpardonable sins for different times in the program of God. For example, in Eden, the unpardonable sin was to eat of the fruit of a tree. In Egypt, the unpardonable sin was not to put the blood on the doorposts so when the death angel looked at the door he would pass over the house and not kill the residents. In the Tribulation the unpardonable sin will be to take the mark of the Beast. Now the sin here is one when Jesus was specifically here on earth.

Now **verse 30** is a subordinate clause to **verse 29** which explains what this sin is. **The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit was to actually see Jesus Christ performing miracles when He was physically here on earth and making up a lie that said He was doing those miracles by the power of Satan.**

Christ is addressing the “scribes from Jerusalem” that are actually making up a lie about Him. They were trying to keep people from a true relationship with God by twisting the truth about Jesus Christ. They were telling people that Jesus Christ was satanic and was doing the things He was doing by the power of Satan, when in fact He was doing those things by the power of the Holy Spirit.

To say that the Holy Son of God, Jesus Christ, is satanic, is the “quintessence of all evil” and will put them into hell. When the religious leaders witnessed the work of Jesus Christ and said He was satanic, they were looking at the work of the Holy Spirit and giving allegiance to Satan.

If you were a person who saw Jesus Christ preach and teach and do the things He did by the power of the Holy Spirit, and then you said He did those things because He was satanic, when in fact you know He is not, is a blasphemous sin that will put one straight into hell.

Now hell is a horrible, real place graphically described in the Bible:

- 1) It is a place where people burn with actual unquenchable fire (Mark 9:43; Rev. 20:15);
- 2) It is a place of black darkness (II Pet. 2:17; Jude 13; Matt. 22:13);
- 3) It is a place of conscious torturous pain (Rev. 14:11a);
- 4) It is a place of constant weeping (Matt. 13:42a; 22:13);
- 5) It is a place of constant gnashing teeth (Matt. 13:42b; 22:13);
- 6) It is a place of terrible loneliness (II Thess. 1:9b);
- 7) It is a place where one always burns in fire but never burns up (Matt. 25:46).

Now there is one sin that you can commit now that will put you into hell. It is a sin that will guarantee you end up in hell and that sin is to not believe on Jesus Christ.

This is the unpardonable sin for this age. But come to Christ and all your sin will be forgiven.