

Choose the Right Door! Mark 3:20-35

May 16, 2021

²⁰ Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul, and by the prince of demons he casts out demons." ²³ And he called them to him and said 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 is coming to an end. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house."

²⁸ Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" —³⁰ for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

³¹ And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. ³² And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside seeking you." ³³ And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴ And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

There are two things going on with Jesus: (1) repeated collisions with the religious establishment, and (2) his popularity with the people.

What's behind:

Door #1 – Jesus is crazy

Door #2 – Jesus is possessed

Door #3 – Jesus is God

Door #4 – Jesus is normal

Jesus describes a new kind of family in verses 31 to 35.

Mary's likely reaction: shocked. In Hebrew culture, the family was sacred.

What did Jesus mean?

- John 19:26-27 tells us that while Jesus hung on the cross, he thought of his mother and made provision for her.
- Jesus held parenthood in high regard. He castigated those who failed to give honor to their parents. (See Mark 7:9-13)
- Jesus was talking about spiritual kinship and not flesh and blood kinship.

Mark 10: 29 to 30. ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life."

The scribes criticized Jesus for exorcising by Satan and not by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:19: "And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons (followers) cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges."

Some definitions:

- **Truly** – absolutely, definitely, incontrovertibly, indisputably, undeniably, unquestionably.
- **Exorcism** – occurs when someone is a slave to the power of a demon and that power is removed and the person is freed.
- **Blaspheme** – defiant irreverence.

Here's the problem---

The scribes looked right into the face of God and called it the power of Satan!

What does I Timothy 1:12-16 tell us about ignorance of the Holy Spirit?

¹² "I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³ though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life."

The unforgivable sin is the ongoing, continued rejection of the witness of the Holy Spirit to the divinity and saviorhood of Christ.

Hebrews 2: 1 to 4: #1 The Danger of Drifting Away

¹ Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ² For since the message declared by the angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Hebrews 3:7-12: #2 The Danger of Disobedience

⁷ 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,

⁹ where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.

¹⁰ Therefore I was provoked with that generation,

And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart;

They have not known my ways.’

¹¹ As I swore in my wrath,

‘They shall not enter my rest.’”

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

#3 Hebrews 5:11-6:20 : The Danger of Immaturity

#4 Hebrews 10:19-31: The Danger of Willful Sin

#5 Hebrews 12:25-29: The Danger of Indifference