

Jesus and Beelzebub - Mark 3:20-30

Topics: Blasphemy, Church, Demons, Divisions, Forgiveness, Holy Spirit, Sacrifice, Satan, Sin, Unity

Open It

- * 1. In your experience, when has faithfulness to a cause or person led to conflict with others?
- 2. In what situations or settings can unity be important?

Explore It

- 3. What was the problem at the onset of this story? (3:20)
- 4. Who tried to solve Jesus' dilemma? Why? (3:21)
- * 5. What did Jesus' family think of Him? (3:21)
- 6. Where had Jesus' detractors come from? (3:21-22)
- * 7. Besides Jesus' own family, who else found fault with Him? (3:22)
- 8. How did the teachers of the law try to explain Jesus' behavior? (3:22)
- * 9. How did Jesus refute His opponents' accusation that He was possessed by the devil? (3:23-27)
- 10. What does Jesus' speech about a "kingdom divided" tell us about the kingdom of God? (3:24-26)
- 11. Who was the "strong man" of whom Jesus spoke? (3:27)
- 12. Who was the "robber"? (3:27)
- 13. What was the "blasphemy of the Holy Spirit" of which Jesus spoke? (3:29-30)
- 14. Why is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit uniquely worthy of divine judgment? (3:29-30)

Get It

- 15. Why do you think Jesus' family thought He was "out of his mind"?
- 16. In light of this passage, what do we fight against?
- 17. Why do you think Jesus chose to speak to His audience in parables?
- 18. What difference does it make in your life to know that Jesus has authority over all the evil powers of this world?
- 19. What is the true significance of Jesus' ministry of casting out demons?
- * 20. Why is unity among Christians so important?
- 21. In what ways can we strengthen the unity of the church?
- * 22. In what ways can you strengthen your local fellowship or church?
- 23. What can a believer do to guard against disunity in the church?
- 24. What can we do to avoid committing the "unforgivable sin"?
- 25. When, if ever, have you been thought of as "out of your mind" by other people because of your efforts to live a Christian life?
- 26. How should Christians respond to conflict with other people, both non-Christians and believers, in light of Jesus' example?
- 27. What has following Jesus cost you?

Apply It

- 28. What can you do over the next few days to restore a relationship that strains your unity with other Christians?
- * 29. What is one step you can take this week to strengthen the unity of your local church?