

## **Adult Sunday Bible Study Lesson**

### **The Gospel According to Mark**

**Sunday March 17, 2019**

#### **The King Makes His Presence Known**

**Situational Context:** The teachers of the law have accused Jesus of driving out demons by Beelzebub, the Prince of Demons. And Jesus' own family thinks He is unstable, **Mark 3:21-22 (NIV2011)** <sup>21</sup> **When His family heard about this, they went to take charge of Him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."** <sup>22</sup> **And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons, He is driving out demons."**

**Lesson Theme:** The Kingdom of God is here now. The King has arrived and has begun to assault the Kingdom of Darkness by freeing its captives. Only the King has the power to free a slave to the strongman, Satan. Every true believer is the result of the King's actions. We have been plundered from the Kingdom of Darkness. To the victor belongs the spoils!

**Mark 3:23-27 (NIV2011)** <sup>23</sup> **So Jesus called them over to Him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan?"** <sup>24</sup> **If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.** <sup>25</sup> **If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.** <sup>26</sup> **And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come.** <sup>27</sup> **In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house."**

**1. The King Corrects: Mark 3:23-30 (NIV2011)** <sup>23</sup> **So Jesus called them over to Him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan?"** <sup>24</sup> **If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.** <sup>25</sup> **If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.** <sup>26</sup> **And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come.** <sup>27</sup> **In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house.** <sup>28</sup> **Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all**

**their sins and every slander they utter, <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.” <sup>30</sup> He said this because they were saying, “He has an impure spirit.”**

**Interpretation:** Jesus uses a parable to refute the accusations of His adversaries while at the same time by the miracle to announce the Kingdom of God is at hand and the presence of its King.

When the work of the Spirit and His influence is deliberately and knowingly refused, in opposition to the light, then the irreversible sin can be committed as a voluntary, informed act of malice. In response there is a hardening of the heart from God that rules out repentance and faith. God permits the decision of the human will to be permanent in this case. God does not do this lightly or without cause, but in response to an offense against His love.

#### **Supporting Texts:**

**Hebrews 3:12-13 (NIV2011) <sup>12</sup> See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you have a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.**

**Matthew 12:28 (NIV2011) <sup>28</sup> But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.**

**2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV2011) <sup>4</sup> The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

#### **Discussion Starters:**

**Why is it difficult to understand and believe that unbelievers are blinded by the Strongman?**

**Why is regeneration a miracle?**

**How is an unbeliever a slave to Satan?**

**How does the Strongman protect his own property?**

**What is a simple way to understand the unpardonable sin?**

**Why is the unpardonable sin different than a sin that can be forgiven?**

**Did Jesus death atone for eternal sins?**

**2. The King Misunderstood: Mark 3:31-32 (NIV2011) <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."**

**Interpretation:** Jesus' family was probably trying to protect Him from His heavy schedule. It is clear they did not understand His mission or ministry. They also may have wanted to protect Him from unwanted scrutiny by the religious leaders.

**Supporting Texts:**

**Mark 6:3 (NIV2011) <sup>3</sup> Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him.**

**Discussion Starters:**

**What are the challenges for His family?**

**What are the challenges for a family of a committed disciple?**

**3. The King's Real Family: Mark 3:33-35 (NIV2011) <sup>33</sup> "Who are my mother and my brothers?" He asked. <sup>34</sup> Then He looked at those seated in a circle around Him and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! <sup>35</sup> Whoever does God's will is My brother and sister and mother."**

**Interpretation:** The arrival of the kingdom of God changes human relationships. Those who oppose its progress, whether mothers or brothers, must be left; those in the kingdom become a person's closest associates, nearer and dearer than any others.

## **Supporting Texts:**

**Mark 10:29-31 (NIV2011) <sup>29</sup> “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for Me and the Gospel <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”**

## **Discussion Starters:**

**Did Jesus reject His family?**

**How should this change our view of our fellow church members?**

**What unites those in this new family?**