

# REVEALED

## An Exposition of the Book of Mark



### Family Matters

Mark 3:20-35

#### Main Idea

Jesus, by his supreme authority, invites us to be part of his family, but there will be opposition.

#### Overview

##### **Opposition to Jesus – Do You Feel It?**

- In verse 20-21 those closest to Jesus, his family, oppose his ministry – “He is out of his mind”
- In verse 22 the religious leaders of the day go out of their way to renounce Jesus’ ministry – “they came down from Jerusalem”
- Opposition to Jesus abounds through all of Scripture
- As Christian, we should feel a degree of the opposition that Jesus felt
  - John 15:20 – “A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me they will also persecute you.”
  - We should be challenged: “[If we have not felt opposition] we may wonder whether we have really counted, whether we have cut sharply enough and deeply enough to make any lasting impression.”
  - We should be encouraged: When our lives have enough devotion to Christ that we can be opposed or we have enough zeal to be awkward we are following the footsteps of Jesus.

##### **Authority of Jesus – Do You Believe It?**

- In verse 22-23 the scribes attribute Jesus’ ability to cast out demons as Satanic
  - They did not refute that he did cast out demons, they tried to redefine who Jesus was
- Jesus offers 4 parables to confront the scribes
  - 1<sup>st</sup> three parables (v. 24, 25, 26) Jesus shows the irrational thinking of the scribes; Satan does not cast out Satan
  - 4<sup>th</sup> parable (v. 27) Jesus shows the real reason he is able to cast out demons – because he is stronger than Satan
- Jesus’ authority is good news because everyone is or was under the control of Satan (Eph. 2:1-3)
- At the cross Jesus decisively dethrones Satan and defeats sin for all those who repent and turn to him (Col. 2)
- All sins that are repented of will be forgiven (v. 27)
- Only blaspheming the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven (v. 28) because the Holy Spirit plays a decisive role in salvation
  - The Spirit convicts us of sin, opens our eyes to the substitutionary death and victorious resurrection of Jesus, then grants repentance and faith

##### **Invitation by Jesus – Do You Accept It?**

- Instead of being seized by his family, Jesus seizes the opportunity to teach about a family that runs deeper than blood lines
- Who *can* be a part of this family? “Whoever”
- Who *is* a part of this family? “Whoever *does* the will of my Father.”
  - Will of God is to “Repent and believe in the gospel” & “Follow Me” (1:15; 17)
- Restoration church should be a picture of God’s family and welcome everyone and care for one another like family
- Singles and those married without children have zero disadvantage in bearing children for God’s family because that happens through not through physical procreation, but spiritual regeneration, which happens through gospel proclamation

### Questions

1. What types of things are we told by our culture to pursue? Why is it often easier for us to pursue these things rather than pursuing a relationship with Jesus?
2. In verse 21 Jesus’ family says “He is out of his mind.” How should we be able to relate? What type of opposition have you faced for being a Christian? In the moment, was that encouraging or discouraging? How can we turn every episode of opposition into a time of encouragement?
3. How does our bouts of opposition become more ‘manageable’ in light of the persecution we see going on around the world?
4. In verses 22-23 the scribes say Jesus power to cast out demons was Satanic, what’s wrong with this argument? Are there any implication for that today?
5. Explain verse 27 and it’s implications for us today? It’s strong language to say everyone is or was under the control of Satan...are we? How can we remind ourselves of this fact and help unbelievers see it too?
6. What does it mean to “blaspheme the Holy Spirit?” Can someone commit this sin today? What does it tell us about the nature of sin?
7. In verse 31-35, Jesus redefines family. Is he unloving toward his biological family and antifamily?
8. What implications does the doctrine of adoption play into our everyday lives? For families? For married couples with no children? For singles?