

Questions for reflection & discussion

Summarize the message in your own words.

- What stood out for you?

Family problems

- Jesus' family thought he was crazy and the religious leaders thought he was demon possessed.

Talk about being misunderstood!

But to Jesus, "family" runs deeper than "blood".

- Regarding Satan...
Jesus is robbing him,
not partnering with the devil.
- Jesus is leading a subversive insurgency into Satan's territory and utterly "plundering the strong man."
- Do we see the world with that reality in view?

Read Mark 3

Jesus' whole mission is one of salvation and redemption; of restoring people to wholeness.

- What are some reasons people might think Christians are crazy today?
- Why did Jesus' family think He was "out of his mind"? (v21)
 - What did they see in Jesus?
 - What should they have seen instead?

Read **verse 27** again.

- Who is the "strong man" and who is "robbing" him?
- How might remembering this verse help us fight temptation and live for Jesus?
- What is the "unforgivable sin"?
- What would you say to someone who thinks they have "blasphemed against the Holy Spirit?" (vs. 29-30)

Read **verses 31-35**.

- How would you have felt if you were Jesus mother or brothers?
 - How would you have felt if you were His disciples?
- Jesus asks a question in **v33**
Who are my mother and my brothers?
- This cuts to the heart of Middle Eastern society: family is everything.
- Jesus' answer in v34-35:
(You all) here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.

This is one of the most radical statements in the Gospel because it announces a whole new way of being family and the abandonment of blood-relations as the primary bond that defines and orders one's life.

- Have you ever had to choose loyalty between Jesus & your family?
 - How did you feel?
 - Did your loyalty to the Kingdom of God run deeper than blood?
 - Why or why not?
- Are there some ways you struggle to put Jesus before every other loyalty?
- What does this indicate about your heart?
- In what ways can you join Jesus in plundering Satan's house in this season?
- Why is understanding the parable in **v27** so important to understanding the unforgivable sin?
- Where do you find your identity?
 - What do you think it means to find your identity in Christ?
 - What might it cost you?
- C.S. Lewis argued that Jesus had to be either a horrible liar, a madman, or the Son of God as he claimed.
Why can't he just be a "good teacher"?
Do you see any other possibility?

REFLECTING ON & LIVING IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Looking over this chapter of Mark, how does Jesus model for us different ways of announcing the kingdom of God?
- How has this chapter expanded your view of what God can do and is doing, to teach, heal and defeat the forces of evil?

Review the post [Into The Text MARK 3](https://www.occweb.org/) on [occweb.org/](https://www.occweb.org/). There's a lot to think about in this part of Mark 3

- Demonology and spiritual power/authority
 - questions about the purpose of spiritual power
 - the abuse and misuse of spiritual power
- Unforgivable sin
 - what is it?
- Family
 - who is family in the kingdom of God
 - do we buy into a Western mindset around family more than the kingdom picture?
 - do we welcome those who are without family into our families