

22S41 Mark 3:13-35 (Part 7)

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 3:13-35 (Part 7) The 12 disciples are chosen, Jesus teaches about a house divided cannot stand, unforgiveable sin, Jesus mother and brothers visit.

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure, but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the New Testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let's read Mark 3:13-35 (NAS) *¹³And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. ¹⁴And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, ¹⁵and to have authority to cast out the demons. ¹⁶And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), ¹⁷James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder"); ¹⁸and Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot; ¹⁹and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. ²⁰And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. ²¹And when His own people heard about this, they came out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses." ²²The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons." ²³And so He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables: "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴And if a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished! ²⁷But no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first ties up the strong man, and then he will plunder his house. ²⁸"Truly I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons and daughters of men, and whatever blasphemies they commit; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— ³⁰because they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit." ³¹Then His mother and His brothers came, and while standing outside they sent word to Him, calling for Him. ³²And a crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You." ³³Answering them, He said, "Who are My mother and My brothers?" ³⁴And looking*

around at those who were sitting around Him, He said, "Here are My mother and My brothers!"³⁵For whoever does the will of God, this is My brother, and sister, and mother."

Let's pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

Now, let's take a closer look at these verses, Mark 3:13-15 (NAS) *¹³And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. ¹⁴And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, ¹⁵and to have authority to cast out the demons.* Jesus is selecting a group of twelve to spend special time with Him, learning, living, growing into what they would need to be after He was gone. An amazing authority was giving to them to heal and cast out demons. Here are their names in Mark 3:16-19 (NAS) *¹⁶And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), ¹⁷James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder"); ¹⁸and Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot; ¹⁹and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.* This group is quite the group. Now we know the rest of the story but when this happened I'm sure no one was happy. Four hot tempered fisherman Peter, Andrew, James and John, Matthew (also known as Levi) the hated tax collector, Simon the zealot (zealot were violently opposed to Roman rule and as such would have hated and even wanted to kill tax collectors), others were Bartholomew also known as Nathaniel, Philip, Thomas also known as doubting Thomas, Thaddaeus, James, and doubt forget the betrayer Judas. This was very odd group. Sworn enemies, rough-necked fishermen. This was not a unified group, at least not at the beginning. Jesus knows what He is doing though.

Let's read on, Mark 3:20-21 (NAS) *²⁰And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. ²¹And when His own people heard about this, they came out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses."* Presumably this was Nazareth. It seems like not everyone is sure about this but "His own people" is probably His mother Mary and brothers and sisters. His family thought He was out of His mind. They thought Jesus was crazy. And in Mark 3:22 (NAS) *²²The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."*

The scribes see an opportunity and they decide He's possessed. They said the only way He can do what He is doing is because the ruler of the demons is helping Him. But this is more than just crazy. Jesus is healing people not just casting out demons. The scribes are ignoring that. But Jesus has a perfect response, of course. in Mark 3:23-27 (NAS) *²³And so He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables: "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴And if a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to*

stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished! ²⁷But no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first ties up the strong man, and then he will plunder his house.

A house divided cannot stand. This one of Jesus' obvious truths that teaches us.

Then Mark continues in Mark 3:28-30 (NAS) *²⁸"Truly I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons and daughters of men, and whatever blasphemies they commit; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— ³⁰because they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."*

There is a lot of debate about what this unforgivable sin really is. Jesus is very serious. All sins can be forgiven except blasphemies against the Holy Spirit. Again, this is very serious but I have to be honest I'm not sure what Jesus means. I heard a lot of opinions. Some translations say grieve the Spirit, either way Jesus is talking about a eternal sin, something that is held against us forever. So, it's important, just not perfectly clear. In context, they are accusing the Jesus of being given His power by the ruler of the demons and not the Holy Spirit. Verse 30 says because they said he has an unclean spirit. So my best guess is if you say the ruler of demons is doing what the Holy Spirit is doing, then you might be in big trouble. We better acknowledge what God is doing, given the demons or ruler of the demons credit for what God has done is probably not a good idea. I'll leave it at that.

Then Mark continues in Mark 3:31-35 (NAS) *³¹Then His mother and His brothers came, and while standing outside they sent word to Him, calling for Him. ³²And a crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You." ³³Answering them, He said, "Who are My mother and My brothers?" ³⁴And looking around at those who were sitting around Him, He said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! ³⁵For whoever does the will of God, this is My brother, and sister, and mother."*

I have heard people say, wow Jesus is being harsh to His family. But don't forget they were just saying Jesus was crazy. They are distracting Jesus from what He is trying to do. Jesus is all about doing the will of Father God. His true brother and sisters are the ones that do the will of God. The children of God do the will of the Father. Don't forget Jesus is God but He is on a mission. His family is trying to stop Him, so this is why He says His true family is focused on the will of God, not standing in the way of God's will.

Let's review.

- 1) the twelve? What a rag-tag group. These guys were not the ones you would think the leader of the universe would choose. Enemies, turn-coats, hot-tempered, rough-necks, the first few meals had to be interesting, sleeping arrangements, etc. I can only imagine the conversations.
- 2) House Divided? A house divided cannot stand. An obvious truth. How can satan cast out satan. What about the healings? The scribes had no answer for this.

- 3) The will of God. How do you recognize a child of God. They do what God wants them to do. No excuses, only obedience. Want to be in the family with Jesus, then do the will of God. Do God's will. Put God first in everything.

Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen

Let me leave you with this, Jesus is making people uncomfortable. His own family thinks He is crazy. The scribes are quite sarcastically saying Jesus is possessed by a demon. Jesus is very clear. Only those who do the will of God are going to be part of His kingdom. If you want to be part of the kingdom of God, you better be doing God's will. Doing what God has told you to do.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.