



SERIES 2: MARK 3:20-35

Sermon Notes

Text: Mark 3:20-35

Intro:

As Jesus' ministry grew, the opinions about him abounded.

1. His family's opinion (v. 20-21)

"He's out of his mind"

2. The religious leaders' opinion (v. 22)

"He's possessed by Beelzebul!"

3. The demons (v. 11)

"You are the Son of God."

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else He would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." ~C.S. Lewis

If he's nuts, ignore him. If he's evil, abhor him. If he's God, adore him with everything you have!

The Stronger Man

Jesus is the stronger man who binds Satan and plunders his house

Isaiah 49:24-25

God's family

Jesus reveals the nature of God's family - a deeper loyalty than even biological family.

Implications:

1. The ministry of Jesus forces us to make a choice about his true identity.

At what point do you start calling Jesus crazy?

2. Jesus challenges our loyalties.

Which loyalties tend to draw you away from Jesus?

Which loyalties cause you to appropriate Jesus as a sponsor for their interests?

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Prayer:

Warm up:

1. How do you think people describe you when you're not around?
What would you *want* them to say?

Study & Discussion:

1. What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you?
2. When you talk to non-Christians about Jesus, what do they say about him? Do their opinions of him tend to fall somewhere within the 3 categories outlined by C.S. Lewis (Liar, Lunatic, Lord)? Or do they have a more moderate opinion, like "moral teacher"? Why are moderate opinions about Jesus not an option?
3. What do you think it means to "blaspheme the Holy Spirit (v. 28-30)?" Why is it unforgivable?
4. Why does Jesus' seemingly disrespect his mother and brothers (v. 31-35)? What does it mean to be a part of the family of God? What privileges and responsibilities come with that?

Practicing the Way of Jesus:

1. Consider your own response to Jesus. At what point do you call him "out of his mind"? Are there certain teachings of his that seem unreasonable, or inapplicable to your life? Why? Identify these things, and have a conversation in prayer with Jesus about them.