

**MADNESS & MISSION**

**MARK 3:30-25**

**Monday — Big Picture Overview (Mark 3:20–35)**

Read Mark 3:20–35 in one sitting. Notice how the growing tension around Jesus' ministry now involves both his family and the religious authorities. This passage shows two misunderstandings: one from those who believe he is mad, and another from those who think he is possessed. In both cases, Jesus reveals the blindness of human judgment and shows that God's kingdom is advancing through him as the Stronger One who overcomes evil and forms a new family of faith.

1. Summarize the two major conflicts in this passage. What do they have in common?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How does Jesus respond differently to his family and to the scribes?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does this section reveal about what it means to be “inside” or “outside” the kingdom of God?

**Theological Prompt:** The opposition to Jesus is not accidental. It reveals that God's kingdom overturns human expectations and redefines what it means to belong.

**Practical Application:** Reflect on whether there are ways you have misunderstood or resisted Jesus' work because it didn't fit your expectations.

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask the Lord to open your eyes to his work and draw you closer as a faithful member of his family.

Adult Catechesis at St. Dunstan's Anglican Church, Largo, FL  
The Gospel of Mark – Week 10

**Tuesday — Accused of Madness (Mark 3:20–22)**

As crowds gather around Jesus, even his family becomes worried. They try to stop him, saying he is crazy. Meanwhile, the scribes from Jerusalem claim that he is possessed by Beelzebub. Both groups misunderstand his purpose, one out of concern, the other out of hostility. Their reactions show how easily people try to control or discredit what they cannot understand.

4. Why might Jesus' family have thought he had lost his senses?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How do the scribes' accusations differ from his family's misunderstanding?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What does this teach us about the cost of faithfulness when following God's call?

**Theological Prompt:** The world often labels divine wisdom as madness. God's ways challenge human assumptions about power, success, and control.

**Practical Application:** Consider a time when obeying God made you appear foolish or extreme to others. What did you learn from that experience?

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray for courage to follow Christ even when obedience invites misunderstanding or criticism.

**Wednesday — The Strong Man Bound (Mark 3:23–27)**

Jesus responds to the scribes with metaphors that reveal both their mistake and his authority. A divided kingdom cannot stand, so if Satan were casting out Satan, his reign would already be over. Instead, Jesus likens himself to one who binds the strong man to plunder his house, an image of his victory over the forces of evil. These words are a declaration that the reign of God has come near and that freedom is being proclaimed to the captives.

7. How does Jesus expose the flaw in the scribes' logic?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What does the image of the strong man teach us about Jesus' mission?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How does this connect with earlier scenes of Jesus confronting temptation and evil?

**Theological Prompt:** Jesus is the Stronger One who binds the powers of sin and death, inaugurating God's kingdom of freedom and renewal.

**Practical Application:** Where do you see spiritual bondage today: in yourself, your community, or the world? How might Christ's victory bring hope and healing there?

**Prayer Prompt:** Thank God that no power of darkness can withstand the authority of Christ, the Stronger One.

**Thursday — The Unforgivable Sin (Mark 3:28–30)**

Jesus warns that all sins can be forgiven except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. This does not mean there is a single unforgivable act but rather a hardened attitude that regards God's good work as evil. The scribes have become so closed off to the truth that they see the liberating power of God as demonic. When hearts reach this level of resistance, repentance becomes impossible because grace itself is turned away.

10. Why does Jesus describe this sin as 'eternal'?

11. How do the scribes' accusations demonstrate spiritual blindness?

12. What safeguards can help us remain open to the Holy Spirit's work?

**Theological Prompt:** Persistent rejection of God's Spirit leads to moral inversion, i.e., calling light darkness and darkness light.

**Practical Application:** Pray for discernment to see the Spirit's work clearly, resisting cynicism or hardness of heart.

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask the Holy Spirit to keep your heart sensitive and receptive to truth and grace.

Adult Catechesis at St. Dunstan's Anglican Church, Largo, FL  
The Gospel of Mark – Week 10

**Friday — The True Family of Jesus (Mark 3:31–35)**

When Jesus' mother and brothers arrive to take him home, he looks around at those sitting in a circle nearby and declares, "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." This moment redefines kinship: true family is not defined by blood, but by obedience and faith. In this new community, belonging is determined by a relationship with Jesus rather than ancestry or tradition.

13. Why is Jesus' statement about family so radical in his cultural context?

14. What does it mean to be part of Jesus' true family today?

15. How might this vision of family challenge divisions within the Church?

**Theological Prompt:** Jesus forms a new household of faith where obedience to God creates deeper bonds than biology or heritage.

**Practical Application:** Look for opportunities to extend Christlike belonging to those who feel 'outside,' welcoming them as brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Prayer Prompt:** Thank God for adopting you into his family and pray that your life would reflect his inclusive love.