

Jesus' Later Galilean Ministry, Part 2
AM Service Mark 3:20-35 April 25, 2021

Introduction

What are the main characteristics of the Gospel of Mark?

1. Mark emphasizes Jesus' actions more than His teaching.
2. Mark's writing style is vivid, forceful, and descriptive, reflecting an eyewitness source such as Peter.
3. Mark portrayed his subjects with unusual candor.
4. Mark's Gospel is dominated by Jesus' movement toward the Cross and the Resurrection.

Gospel – euangelion – good news

- * the message given by Jesus and
- * the message about Jesus

The Preparation for Jesus' Public Ministry 1:1-13

Jesus' Early Galilean Ministry (1:14 – 3:6)

Jesus' message

Jesus' call of four fishermen

Jesus' authority over demons and disease

Jesus' controversies with Jewish religious leaders in Galilee

Jesus' rejection by the Pharisees 3:6

Jesus' Later Galilean Ministry, Part 2

1. Jesus' activity around the Sea of Galilee (3:7–12)
2. Jesus' appointment of the Twelve (3:13–19)
3. The Beelzebub accusation and Jesus' identity of His true family
4. Jesus' parables depicting the character of God's kingdom
5. Jesus' miracles demonstrating His sovereign power (4:35–5:43)
6. Conclusion: Jesus' rejection at Nazareth (6:1–6a)

**The Beelzebub accusation and Jesus' identity
of His true family (3:20–35)**

1. Jesus' family is concerned for Him.

- a. The situation
- b. The intervention
 - “his own people”
 - “lay hold of Him”
 - “out of His mind”

2. Jesus refutes the Beelzebub accusation.

- a. The accusation
- b. The refutation in parables

John MacArthur

One must be stronger than Satan in order to enter his domain (“strong man’s house”), bind him (restrain his action), and free (“plunder”) people (“his goods”) from his control. Only Jesus had such power over the devil.

- c. The strong warning

The general principle – All the sins and blasphemies (derogatory words against God) of men (generic, “people”) are open to God's gracious forgiveness.

The exception – Blasphemies against the Holy Spirit are unforgivable.

What does verse 29 mean?

To whom is this verse referring?
What kind of person is in danger here?
The blasphemies are continual.
They show a defiant hostility toward God.
They reject His saving power toward man.
They reject the ministry of Jesus Christ which is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

They claim Jesus is empowered by Satan.
They prefer darkness even though they have been exposed to the light.

“Such a persistent attitude of willful unbelief can harden into a condition in which repentance and forgiveness, both mediated by God’s Spirit, become impossible.”

(John D. Grassmick – The Bible Knowledge Commentary)

John MacArthur -

Whenever someone deliberately and disrespectfully slanders the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit in pointing to the Lordship and redemption of Jesus Christ, he completely negates and forfeits any possibility of present or future forgiveness of sins, because he has wholly rejected the only basis of God’s salvation.

Bob Utley

(The Gospel According to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter)

This sin is committed by those who, in the presence of great light and understanding, still reject Jesus as God’s means of revelation and salvation.

They turn the light of the gospel into the darkness of Satan.

They reject the Spirit’s drawing and conviction.

The unpardonable sin is not a rejection by God because of some single act or word, but the continual, ongoing rejection of God in Christ by willful unbelievers (i.e. the scribes and Pharisees).

This sin can only be committed by those who have been exposed to the gospel.

Those who have heard the message about Jesus clearly are the most responsible for its rejection.

This is especially true of modern cultures that have continual access to the gospel, but reject Jesus (i.e. America, western culture).

a. Jesus’ mother and brothers call to Him.

b. Jesus makes a statement on His true family.

Such discipleship involves a spiritual relationship that transcends the physical family and is open to all who are empowered by the Spirit of God to come to Christ in repentance and faith and enabled to live a life of obedience to God’s Word.
(John MacArthur)

Comment - There is an obvious contrast between the ignorant, but compassionate, unbelief of Jesus’ family and the willful, hostile unbelief of the religious leaders.

What have we learned, and what should we do?

1. Jesus was misunderstood by His family.

What should you do?

- a. Ask - Is this just misguided love and concern?
- b. Ask - Is this the Gospel confronting them?
- c. Act – Lovingly live Christ in front of them.
- d. Act – Gently share Christ with them.
- e. Pray – Ask the Lord to save them.

2. There are those who will malign the person of Jesus.

What should you do?

- a. Live like Christ.
- b. Pray for our leaders.
- c. Thank God we have a say in our government.
- d. Lovingly exercise our rights and responsibilities.

3. “A persistent attitude of willful unbelief can harden into a condition in which repentance and forgiveness, both mediated by God’s Spirit, become impossible.”

John D. Grassmick

3. Jesus identifies His true family.

~ Pastor Mark D. Montgomery