

Mrk10 – **Hard Sayings – Mark 3:20-35**

Dave Shepardson, wordbymail.com

Mark is **still** in the **Same Vein** he's **been in**
the **past 3 msgs**

Which is - GRAPHICALLY showing us

Who was following Jesus for the **WRONG Reasons** (Crowds)

Who was Truly **Set AGAINST** Jesus (Religious Elite)

Who was **Truly FOR** Jesus (Disciples)

Mark has been **showing us**
for **FOUR msgs** (including today's) . . .

That **Jesus** was **DRAWING**
a Very **Clear - Line-In-The-Sand**

Are we **Truly FOR Jesus** - or **NOT**

Are we willing to **Truly STAND** with Him – or **NOT**

And – We see it **again today**
As we look at **two HARD SAYINGS** of Jesus

& **again** today – We **get to decide**
which side of that - "**Line In The Sand**" we are on

Let's Pray

Mark starts **today** with a **Scene-Setting Vs** - in **Vs. 20**

But then – **v.21** actually **goes** with our **Second HARD SAYING**
that **starts** down in **v.31**

It's a **THING** that Mark does – called "**Sandwiching**"

So – just **Stay with me** – & we'll **put** it all **together**

Mark 3:20 (NLT)

20 One time Jesus entered a house, and the crowds began to gather again. Soon he and his disciples couldn't even find time to eat.

This Vs – **Sets the SCENE**

Jesus is Probably **in Capernaum**

Probably **at Peter's house** again

& the **ministry** is getting **more & more** - **INTENSE**

& the **crowds** are **more & more** – **PRESSING IN**

To the point - that **Jesus** & the Disciples

couldn't even find **time to eat**

Which will **come up again** in our **SECOND Hard Saying**

But **first** – we're going to **SKIP vs 21** (2nd Hard Saying)

& go to our **First HARD SAYING** - that starts **in v.22**

The Gospel of Matthew says – that at this point

Jesus CAST OUT a Demon – from a Possessed man
who was both BLIND and Couldn't SPEAK

& - in response to that – we read in

Mark 3:22 (NLT)

22 But the teachers of religious law who had arrived from Jerusalem said, “He’s possessed by Satan, the prince of demons. That’s where he gets the power to cast out demons.”

How do you think it’s gonna go

for the Religious Leaders - to ACCUSE the Son of God
of being Possessed by SATAN

These guys are Relentless – in their efforts to REMOVE
the one they don’t realize – IS their Messiah

But – this time – they’ve gone TOO FAR

& - not only is Jesus going to shut them down - AGAIN

But – he is also going to ISSUE –
ONE of the scariest warnings in all of the N.T.

The WARNING – of the “Unforgivable Sin”

So – look closely – at the Accusation in V.22 –

because THIS is what LEADS
to the Warning about the “Unforgivable Sin”

(again) Mark 3:22(b) (NLT) . . . “He’s possessed by Satan, the prince of demons. That’s where he gets the power to cast out demons.”

THIS Crosses the Line – in Accusations Against Jesus

So – Mark 3:23(a) (NLT)

23 Jesus called them over and responded with an illustration . . .

So - Jesus is going to give a Great Illustration – in order to SHUT
this Ridiculous Accusation Down

& then he’s going to issue – a very scary warning
THAT is ABOUT this Accusation

Mark 3:23(b)-26 (NLT)

23 . . . “How can Satan cast out Satan?” he asked.

(which is what they’re accusing him of)

24 “A kingdom divided by civil war will collapse.

25 Similarly, a family splintered by feuding will fall apart.

26 And (so) if Satan is divided and fights against himself, how can he stand? He would never survive.

& then Jesus really makes it clear in Mark 3:27 (NLT) → →

Mark 3:27 (NLT)

27 Let me illustrate this further. Who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man (Satan) and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger (Jesus)—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house.

Jesus makes this Powerful Argument

to **PROVE** that he is **Absolutely LORD** over the **ENTIRE Spiritual Realm** – including the **Demonic** Realm

In fact – in **this same teaching** in

Matthew 12:28 – Jesus says (NLT)

28 But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you.

THIS is what the **Religious Leaders**
AND the people – are **ACTUALLY Witnessing**

The **Kingdom of God** – **IN** the **Person** of **Jesus Christ**
has **COME** into your **Midst**

The **MIRACLES of God**
AND the **POWER** of the **Holy Spirit** – are **ON DISPLAY**

& - it **is HOW** the **Religious Leaders**
are **RESPONDING** to **THAT truth**

That **Brings the WARNING** of the **Unforgivable SIN**

The **SON of GOD** is **standing** in front of these people
Miraculously Proving - **WHO** he is

With the **Power** of the **Holy Spirit**
bringing the **Conviction of the Truth**

& **HOW** these people **RESPOND** to that **PROOF**
& the **Conviction** of the **Holy Spirit**

is **what BRINGS** the **Warning** of the **Unforgivable Sin**

The Unforgivable Sin

is **something** - **BELIEVERS** often **WORRY** about

& **some BELIEVERS** **fear** they **may** have even **committed**

BUT – Listen to me please

Jesus is **NOT SPEAKING TO BELIEVERS**

He is **speaking Completely** & **Exclusively** to **UNBELIEVERS**

Here is HARD SAYING #1

The Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

Remember – **Jesus is responding** - to the **Religious Leaders**
Accusing him – of being **POSSESSED BY SATAN**

HERE is his **Response** - - in **Mark 3:28-29 (NLT)** → →

Mark 3:28-29 (NLT)

**28 “I tell you the truth, all sin and blasphemy can be forgiven (don’t miss that promise – it’s a good one),
29 but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. This is a sin with eternal consequences.”**

Then – **Vs. 30** gives us **the answer** to the **Question**

What does “The Unforgivable Sin” look like

Here’s your answer - Mark 3:30 (NLT)

30 He told them *this* (the unforgivable sin warning) because they were saying, “He’s possessed by an evil spirit.”

The **Religious** Leaders – **WITNESSED** the **PROOF**

of the **POWER of God** – & the **LORDSHIP of Jesus Christ**
over both the **Physical** & **Spiritual Realms**

& The **Holy Spirit** was “**At Work**”
Convincing & **Convicting** them

that they were **witnessing** the **Work of God** – in **Jesus Christ**

& the **Religious Leaders** – *More & More . . .*

Aggressively Denied - & **Fought Against**

All of that **Proof** - & **Conviction** - of **WHO Jesus Christ was**

Do you SEE IT?

SO – HOW is it – that WE can Commit this same Sin?

IT IS something we should be very concerned about

NOT for Us – IF we are believers
But for others - who are NOT believers

Jesus was saying, to the Religious Leaders
that their HEARTS were becoming SO HARD toward him

& their REJECTION of Him
was becoming SO AGGRESSIVE

That they were on the verge – or already in a place
of NOT being ABLE to TURN BACK

from their HARDENED UNBELIEF
& their PERMANENT REJECTION of Jesus

& guys – UNBELIEVERS can get to this same place – today

JOHN 16:8 says

The Holy Spirit is here today – CONVICTING THE WORLD
of SIN - - of GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS
& of the COMING JUDGMENT

Jesus Christ is PRESENT in this world today
with the POWER of the Holy Spirit - Convincing & Convicting

& if our heart – becomes **SO HARD**
to the **CONVICTION** of the **Holy Spirit**

that we **Reject & Reject** & continue to **Reject**
the **truth of God** that **he** is **CONVINCING** us of

Then – Ultimately that **PERMANENT REJECTION**
becomes **HARDENED UNBELIEF**

& THAT becomes the Unforgivable sin

BUT – if you **ARE** in **REJECTION & UNBELIEF** – **TODAY**
& **you** are **still Drawing BREATH**

Then – there is **STILL HOPE**
for **you** to **Receive Forgiveness**

because you can **change**
your **REJECTION & UNBELIEF** – **RIGHT NOW**

Forgiveness COMES
through **Believing and Receiving** Jesus Christ

BELIEVING that **He IS** who he **says he IS**
& **RECEIVING** him as your **Personal Savior & Lord**

Which you can Still do - TODAY

BUT - If you maintain your **HARDENED UNBELIEF**
& **PERMANENT REJECTION** of Jesus Christ

Then **there is no way** for **God** to **forgive you**

THAT is a HARD SAYING

& **one** we **must take** – **super seriously**

OKAY – Everybody GOT That One ?

The **CLEAR ANSWER**

that **Some Believer's** Need to **Hear** is this

IF you are a **True Believer**

& **HAVE Received Jesus** Christ **into your life**

Then – you **CANNOT COMMIT** the **Unforgivable sin**

Because – **JOHN 5:24** says

You have already PASSED – From DEATH into LIFE

OK – We **DO** have a **SECOND HARD SAYING**

We **have** to **Address** today - - **Can you handle it?**

Look back at Mark 3:20 (NLT)

it says - *Jesus couldn't even find time to EAT*

Then Mark 3:21 says (NLT)

21 When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. "He's out of his mind," they said.

A little **less-offensive**

than **what** the **Scribes & Pharisees** were **saying**

but still **pretty offensive** – **coming** from **his own family**

Jesus' **family** – **INCLUDING** the **Mother of Jesus**

Were **ALL saying** – He is "**out of his mind**"

I **read** the **official Catholic**

"Defense of the church" website this week

Which clearly says that **Mary** was ***FREE from Sin***

& DIVINELY UNITED with Christ in his Salvation Work

EXCEPT for that **one time**

when she **thought** he was "**OUT OF HIS MIND!**"

So – **Mary** - & **the rest** of the **Family**

All thought Jesus was "**Out of His Mind**"

& then we read in - Mark 3:31 (NLT)

31 Then Jesus' mother (Mary) and brothers (most probably Mary's other children) came to see him. They stood outside and sent word for him to come out and talk with them.

Their intention (clearly)

was to **take** Jesus **BACK to Nazareth**

So he **would stop** making **a fool out of himself**
with all this **Messiah talk**

& then - **The HARD SAYING starts** in

Mark 3:32-35 (NLT)

32 There was a crowd sitting around Jesus, and someone said, "Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you."

33 (here's the hard saying) Jesus replied, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?"

34 Then he looked at those around him and said, "Look, these are my mother and brothers.

35 Anyone who does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

THAT is the **HARD Saying**

BUT – **Jesus** was **NOT Disrespecting** his family – **or his mother** –
even tho they **all thought** he was **CRAZY**

Jesus Was Making His Mission CLEAR

The Pharisees had just Accused Jesus
of being Possessed by SATAN

& NOW – His Own Family is Accusing him
of being OUT of His MIND

Jesus was Setting Some Stuff STRAIGHT
In these two HARD SAYINGS

Jesus COULD NOT allow
his mother & brothers to make a scene

by trying to drag him off to Nazareth
in some kind of Public INTERVENTION

So, Jesus COULDN'T go outside -
because he KNEW what they were planning to do

Even tho They thought
Jesus was making a Fool of himself

He didn't want THEM to make fools of themselves

by trying to drag the Lord of Creation
by THE EAR – back home

So - Instead – Jesus used their MISGUIDED visit
to teach a Radical Lesson In Discipleship

In Jesus Christ - God is doing Something RADICAL

he is starting a new heavenly family, a new holy people

& he's doing it - without regard for WHERE you've come from
Or your previous family bonds

John 1:12–13 (NLT)

*12 But to all who believed [in Jesus] and accepted (received) him,
he gave the right to become children of God.*

*13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from
human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.*

Jesus used his Own Family's
MISUNDERSTANDING of Who he was

To Make it CLEAR

That You & I can JOIN the Family of GOD – TODAY

They wanted to HIDE Jesus – inside his OWN FAMILY

But Jesus wanted THEM – And US

To JOIN God's NEW FAMILY

& Jesus is using these Hard Sayings – to Help us NOT MISS
the Opportunity to DO – Just THAT

Jesus was making **A HUGE POINT**
in **BOTH** of these **HARD Sayings**

He was **Drawing** a **Clear** - "**Line-In-The-Sand**"

The Question is - **ARE WE STANDING**

Truly **WITH Jesus** - The **LORD** of **Heaven & Earth**

AS **BORN AGAIN** **Children of GOD**

With a **NEW Life**
a **NEW Spiritual Family**
& a **NEW Eternity**

OR – **ARE WE STANDING** with **EITHER** . . .

The **Religious Leaders** of that **day** –
DENYING him no **matter** what

OR – Are we **Standing with his Family**

Who are (at least at this point)

Accusing him of **being** "**Out of His Mind**"

THAT is the **CHALLENGE** Mark has **been Issuing**
in these **last FOUR msgs** (including today)

Are we **Truly STANDING WITH Jesus** – or **NOT**

& - **no matter WHERE** You're at
You **CAN BE** standing WITH Jesus – **TODAY**

I **mentioned JOHN 5:24** earlier
But **let** me **read** the **entire verse**

John 5:24 (NLT)

24 "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

YOU can pass – **from Death Into Life** – **TODAY**

Make a Commitment today
TO **BELIEVE** that **Jesus** Christ **IS** who he **SAYS he is**

& **RECEIVE** him **into** your **life**
As Your **SAVIOR & LORD**

Let's Pray