

- I) V20-21 INTRO: Then the multitude came together again so that they could not so much
- II) As we have seen repeatedly in this gospel, Jesus' popularity has been steadily growing
Mark has said that Jesus' fame was growing throughout Israel and beyond
It spread throughout Galilee, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and to Tyre and Sidon
- III) More than once Mark reported that an entire city gathered at the door of where He was
Mk 1:45 Jesus could no longer openly enter the city (of Capernaum), but was outside in deserted places; and they came to Him from every direction
- IV) We have seen how people would crowd around Him and press Him in
He even had to tell His disciples to have a boat ready so He could avoid being crushed
- V) In this passage we once again see Jesus being pressed by the crowds
- VI) V20 Then the multitude came together again so that they could not so much
At this point, Jesus has appointed the twelve apostles, and is in Capernaum
The house spoken of would be the one that was owned by Simon and Andrew
- VII) Upon hearing that He was in town, a great crowd once again gathered to see Him
There were many reasons why such crowds would gather
- VIII) His teaching was something they had never heard, and many were drawn by it
He was performing miracles, and people in need came to be healed by Him
He freed people from demons, revealing to them His spiritual authority
His compassion was beyond anything they had ever experienced, and attracted them
- IX) His forgiveness of sins, revealing the new wine of grace and love drew multitudes
- X) There were so many gathered that Jesus and His men were unable to eat a meal
This is how attractive Jesus was and still is to those in need
- XI) This is why Jesus and His mission is to be presented clearly and continuously
Jesus brings love, and the forgiveness of sins
Micah 7:18 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy
- XII) Multitudes from all over were impressed by Him, and drawn to Him
They would listen to Him speak, and would drink in what He said

- Mk 12:37b The common people heard Him gladly**
- I) Even so, not everyone looked at Him with faith and delighted in His words
The religious leaders were rejecting Him, and so were His unbelieving brothers**
 - II) V21 But when His own people heard about this they went out to lay hold of Him
His half brothers came to forcibly take Him home (V31)**
 - III) They were concerned for Him because He was working so hard
They also were concerned because He they thought He was putting Himself in danger**
 - IV) The crowds and the pressure was intense, and they wanted to protect Him
His zeal for His Father that consumed Him had been mistaken for madness**
 - V) Obviously, His mother Mary was not concerned in the same way
She knew who Jesus was and she knew that He would one day rule as King**
 - VI) On the other hand, her other children did not have the same faith
Though they were brought up in the same home they did not know who He was
Jn 7: 5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.**
 - VII) THOUGHT: It is possible to be familiar with Jesus, and still not know Who He is
Some who have had the blessing of growing up with Christian parents are still lost
They are spiritually blind and cannot see Him
2 Co 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The
god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the
gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**
 - VIII) Because people are born spiritually blind, it is God's work to open their eyes
Jn 6:44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will
raise them up at the last day.**
 - IX) Jesus' brothers were at that time blind to Who He actually was
This was in spite of the fact that they grew up with Him**
 - X) Mary and Joseph undoubtedly told them of the circumstances of His birth
In spite of the information, they did not believe what they had been told**
 - XI) This is still true to this day: your family can think you are just a crazy Christian
Still, God is merciful and often answers prayers for their salvation
After Jesus died and resurrected, His brothers came to faith in Him**

Ac 1:14 They all (the remaining apostles) joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

- I) There is still hope for your lost family and friends
If you are the one unsaved, there is still hope for you, too
- II) V22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said He has Beelzebub
- III) Jesus' family came looking for Him because they thought He was mad
These religious experts came seeking Him because they thought He was possessed
- IV) These men are scribes: biblical scholars and teachers of the Law of Moses
They were normally Pharisees and teachers and acted as advisors to the chief priests
- V) Their primary duties were to study the law of Moses, teach it to the people, and to help settle disputes involving the questions of the law of Moses and were held in great respect
- VI) As scholarly and respected as they were, Jesus was not impressed with them
He even gave a strong rebuke to the scribes
Mk 12:38-40 Then He said to them in His teaching, "Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation."
- VII) These scribes have come down from Jerusalem and have gone to Capernaum
They have traveled close to 100 miles (skirting Samaria) to accuse Jesus
- VIII) Matthew offers more insight into what is taking place:
Mt 12:22-24 Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."
- IX) This man had three afflictions: Demon possession, blindness, and the inability to speak
Matthew made it clear that Jesus delivered and healed him, instantly
- X) Mt 12:23 gives us the response of the witnesses: they were amazed (astonished)
Astonished: totally astounded; to be beside oneself in wonder and amazement
- XI) Could this be the Son of David is another way of asking if Jesus is the Messiah

- XII) Son of David is what is called a Messianic title**
Ps. 89:3-4 I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant,
Your Seed will I establish for ever, and build up your throne to all generations.
- I) These scribes came down from Jerusalem looking for an opportunity to accuse Him**
When the people began wondering if Jesus was Messiah, they responded quickly
V22 He has Beelzebub and by the ruler of the demons He casts out demons!
- II) Since they could not deny the miracle, they attacked the source of His power**
They saw the evidence of His authority, but were unwilling to accept Him as Messiah
- III) Beelzebub is an ancient name for Satan, prince of the demons**
It is the name of an ancient Philistine god and is translated the lord of flies
It is also Beelzebub, lord of dung, or god of filth and was associated with Satan
- IV) The people were openly wondering if Jesus was Messiah but were still unconvinced**
When they asked "could this be?" the scribes encouraged them to doubt
- V) They could not deny His works; they simply credited them to Satan**
- VI) When you cannot disprove, then discredit: attack the man, not what He is doing**
This is a Common practice: Impugning a person's character to undermine credibility
- VII) V23 So He called them to Him and said to them in parables How can Satan cast out Satan**
He confronts them directly: They did not approach Him, but He approached them
He then deals with their accusation that Satan is casting out Satan
- VIII) V24 If a kingdom is divided against itself that kingdom cannot stand**
The simple fact is: Division undermines effectiveness
- IX) V24 Every kingdom (Matthew 11:25 adds city) represents government and community**
For human government and human community to work effectively, unity is necessary
- X) Of all people we in our day can see how true this is**
Our nation was built on the motto E pluribus unum: out of the many, one
If we are not careful, our unity will continue to be undermined
- XI) V26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided he cannot stand but has an**
Unity of purpose is necessary, if Satan is to continue to oppose God
Why would Satan undermine his own kingdom?

- XII) As Mark has already pointed out: Jesus constantly drove out demons
Mk 1:23 While in a synagogue, He cast out a demon
Mk 1:32-33, 39 He cast out many demons as He ministered throughout Galilee
Mk 3:11 He exercised authority over demons, not allowing them to reveal Him
- I) Throughout His ministry, He had revealed that He was opposed to Satan
How could they accuse Him of being empowered by the devil
- II) V27 No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods unless he first binds
One must be stronger than Satan to enter his domain, bind him and free people
Only Jesus has that kind of authority: Satan surely does not set captives free!
- III) V27 Unredeemed men are Satan's captives but Jesus has come to set them free
It is Jesus, and Jesus alone, who can deliver from the power of this bondage
When Satan is cast out, Jesus purifies and dwells in the heart
- IV) They rejected Jesus, not based on evidence, but because they simply refused to believe
This revealed their hardness of heart and bias against Him
This makes it a greater sin, in that they willfully are resisting God's Spirit
- V) V28 Assuredly I say to you all sins will be forgiven the sons of men and whatever
- VI) Every sin is forgivable, when confessed, repented of and forsaken
This is because God desires to forgive us of our sins
Is 43:25 I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.
Heb 10-16-17 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them. Then He adds Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more
- VII) Notice how Jesus said all sins will be forgiven the sons of men
Instantly and completely
Micah 7:19 You will again have compassion on us; You will tread our sins underfoot and hurl our iniquities into the depths of the sea
- VIII) QUOTE: As Christians, there's no need to revisit past sins or feel remorse for that which God has already completely forgiven. We are free to move forward cleansed of our sins, until we reach our home in heaven.
- IX) No matter how terrible the sin is, God will forgive it
What is worse than killing God's Son?

- X) No matter how long one has sinned, God is able and willing to forgive
Even a lifetime filled with it
The thief on the cross is a good example of this

- I) God is willing and able to forgive us of all of our sins
1 Jn 1:7 If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with another
and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son cleanses us *from all sin*

- II) He will forgive all sins, with the exception of one

- III) V29-31 He who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness but is subject
This sin is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, the unforgivable sin

- IV) Everything about Jesus was an evidence of the Spirit of God working in Him
From His conception, birth, birth, miracles and message, the Holy Spirit was evident

- V) These men were completely unwilling to recognize that Jesus was Messiah
Instead, they said that His works originated with Satan
In doing so, they were blaspheming (speaking evil of) the Holy Spirit

- VI) They saw what He did but said His works originated with Satan
In doing so, they rejected the evidence and rejected the Spirit's conviction

- VII) They made a determination to reject what God revealed as true
When someone rejects the conviction of the Spirit, they are forever lost (Jn 16:8)
1 Jn 2:23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who
acknowledges the Son has the Father also

- VIII) To reject Jesus is to reject the salvation offered through Him
Jonah 2:8 Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.

- IX) V31-35 Then His brothers and His mother came and standing outside they sent to Him

- X) Notice that Mark says His brothers and His mother came
By this time Joseph had more than likely been dead for several years

- XI) The last time he is mentioned is in Lu 2:48-51, when Jesus was twelve years of age
It is when Jesus had gone to Jerusalem to observe the Feast of Passover

- XII) Jesus is now over 30 years of age and has embarked on His ministry
His family now consists of his *mother* Mary and His *half brothers* and *unnamed* sisters

- XIII) V31 His brothers and His mother came and standing outside they sent to Him calling Him
Mary and His brothers are there at the door, summoning Him to come outside to them
They may want to take Him home for His own good
- I) V32 A multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him Look Your mother and
His teaching is interrupted because Jesus' family has arrived

- II) They more than likely thought that He would immediately cease speaking
Your mother is extremely important so show her proper respect

- III) V33 But He answered them saying Who is My mother or My brother
At this point He took the opportunity to illustrate the need to be born again

- IV) HE ASKS: Who is my mother, or My brothers?
Was Jesus rejecting His family? No, He loved them more than they loved Him
He was continuing His teaching and bringing it to a proper conclusion

- V) V34 He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him and said Here are My mother
He was inviting people to be part of His true family

- VI) Anybody can be part of His family if they simply believe Him and trust in Him
Gal 3:26 you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

- VII) True discipleship transcends family relationships
God's family is open to any who would come to Him through Jesus
QUOTE: Mary was more blessed in receiving the *faith* of Christ than in conceiving the
flesh of Christ. Mary was blessed because she kept the Word of God, not merely because she
gave birth. Mary's closeness to Jesus as a natural mother would have been little help for her
salvation if she had not borne Christ in her heart

- VIII) V35 For whoever *does the will of God* is My brother and My sister and mother

- IX) Being part of the family of God requires more than simply saying that you believe
It is demonstrated by a life that is earmarked by a consistent pursuit of Him
Lu 8:21 He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear
the word of God and do it."

- X) JESUS MADE THIS CLEAR:

Mt 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

XI) What is the will of the Father? For us to receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior

Jn 1:12 But as many as *received Him*, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: