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THE GOSPEL OF

# MARK

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SUFFERING SERVANT & SON OF GOD

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## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, Jan 9 - May 1 @ 6:30-7:30a



**WARRIOR'S HEART**  
BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM ONE MAN AT A TIME

[HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org)  
[WarriorsHeart.org](http://WarriorsHeart.org)

# PEACED LIKED A RIVER

**AN EVENING WITH  
GRANGER SMITH**

SAT, MAR 1 @ 6:30-8P

HOUSTON'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH — THE LOOP CAMPUS  
FOR MEN OF ALL AGES | COST: \$35 (DINNER INCLUDED)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG](http://HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG)

**GRANGER  
SMITH**

BAND OF  
**BROTHERS**  
MEN'S MINISTRY



A dense forest of birch trees with white bark and dark lenticels. The trees are tall and slender, with a repeating pattern of dark, crescent-shaped lenticels on their light-colored bark. The forest floor is covered in green grass and small plants. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

*‘forest for the trees’*

# Mark 1:1



The beginning of the gospel of  
Jesus Christ, the Son of God.



Forest = the Gospel of Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God.

# Previously...Mark 1

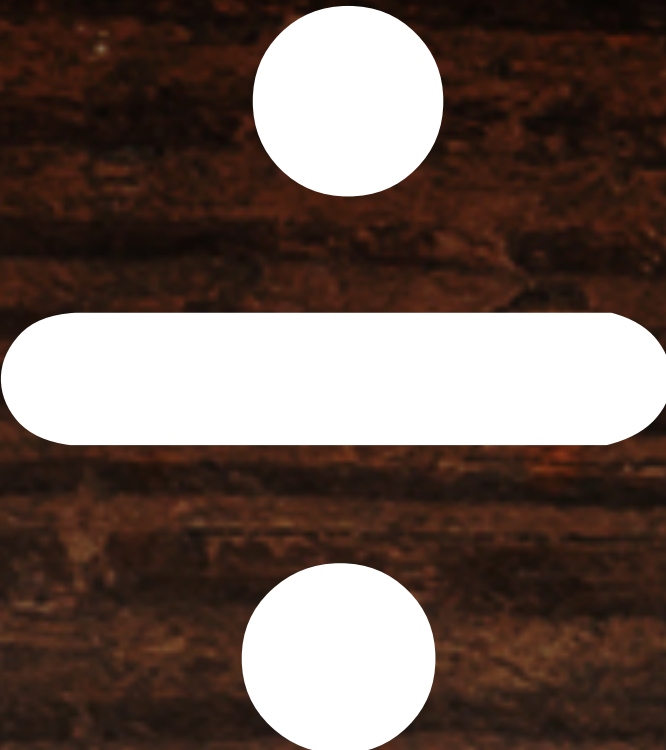


- **Jesus is baptized & the Holy Spirit descends on Him** (*Mk 1:9-11*)
- **Jesus is called “My beloved Son” by God the Father** (*Mk. 1:11*)
- **Jesus is tempted by Satan & attended by angels** (*Mk 1:12-13*)
- **Jesus proclaims the kingdom of God & calls people to repent & believe** (*Mk 1:14-15*)
- **Jesus calls His first disciples (Simon, Andrew, James, & John)** (*Mk 1:16-20*)
- **Jesus has authority over an unclean spirit in the synagogue** (*Mk 1:21-28*)
- **Jesus teaches with authority unlike religious leaders** (*Mk 1:22 & 27*)
- **Jesus heals Simon Peter’s mother-in-law of a fever** (*Mk 1:29-31*)
- **Jesus heals many sick & demon-possessed people at night** (*Mk 1:32-34*)
- **Jesus goes to a solitary place to pray** (*Mk 1:35-39*)
- **Jesus heals a leper, touching him & making him clean** (*Mk 1:40-45*)

# Previously...Mark 2-3



- **Jesus heals a paralyzed man & forgives his sins (*Mk 2:1-12*)**
- **Jesus knows the hearts & thoughts of men (*Mk 2:8*)**
- **Jesus calls Levi (Matthew) the tax collector to follow Him (*Mk 2:13-14*)**
- **Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners, then rebukes the religious leaders demonstrating His mission (*Mk 2:15-17*)**
- **Jesus teaches about fasting, the Old Covenant and hints at a new one to come & He compares Himself to a bridegroom (*Mk 2:18-22*)**
- **Jesus declares Himself “Lord of the Sabbath” & allows His disciples to pick grain on the Sabbath (*Mk 2:23-28*)**
- **Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath (*Mk 3:1-6*)**
- **Jesus heals many by the sea, & large crowds follow Him (*Mk 3:7-12*)**
- **Jesus is called “Son of God” for the first time by Demons (*Mk 3:11*)**
- **Jesus appoints the twelve apostles, giving them authority to preach & cast out demons (*Mk 3:13-19*)**

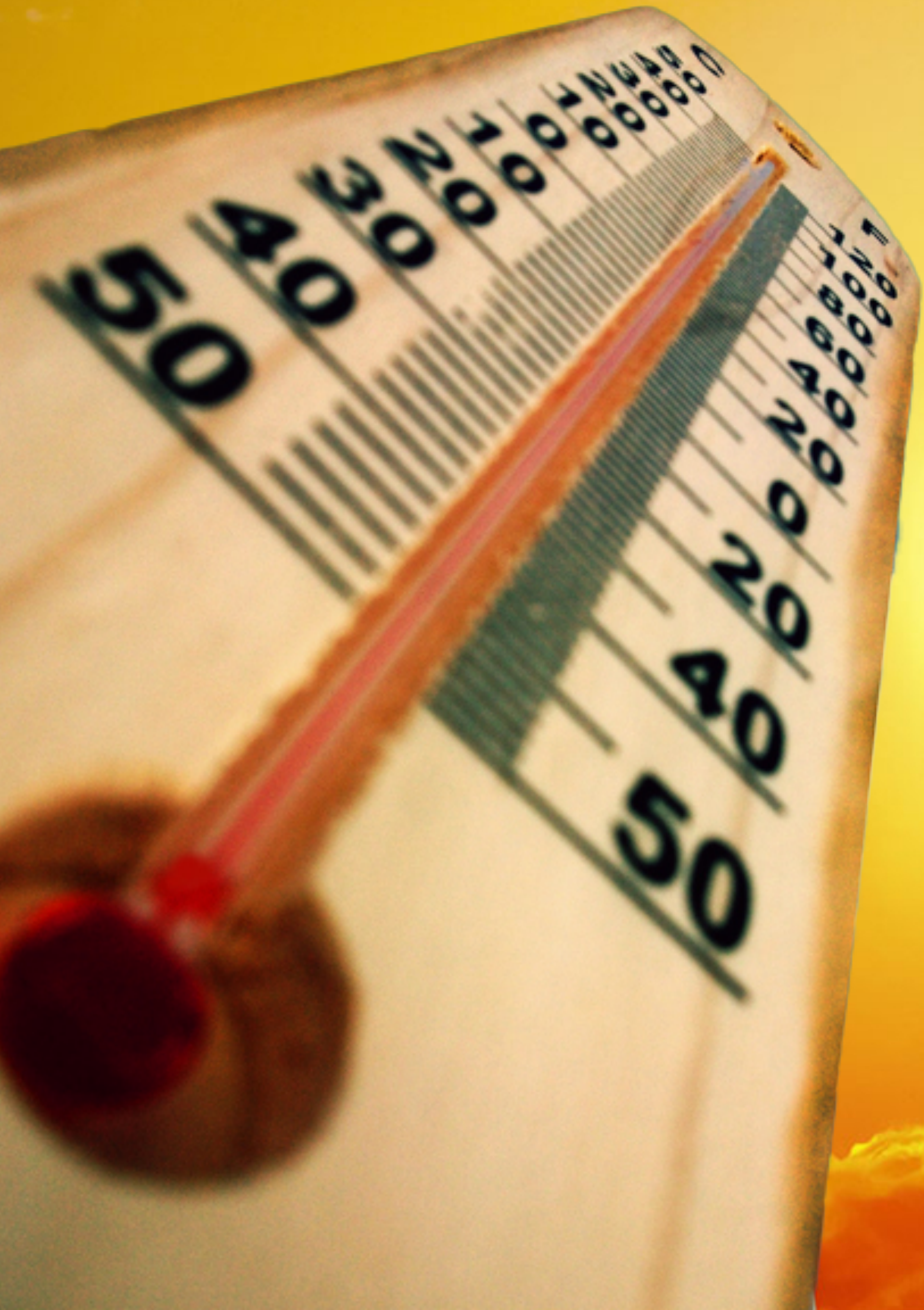


# Increasing Division



- **Mark 1:22** “They were astonished at His teaching because, unlike the scribes, He was teaching them as one having authority.”
- **Mark 2:6-7** “<sup>6</sup> *But some of the scribes were sitting there, thinking to themselves:* <sup>7</sup> “*Why does He speak like this? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”*”
- **Mark 2:16** “*When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that He was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they asked His disciples, “Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?”*”
- **Mark 2:18-28** Christ had 3 more conflicts with Religious leaders
- **Mark 3:6** “*Immediately the Pharisees went out & started plotting with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.”*”

Why?





Softens

Vs.



Hardens

# Foundational Truth



***Same Sun,...different Substances.***

***Same Son,...different Hearts.***

# Mark 3:20-35



<sup>20</sup> Then He went home, and the crowd gathered again so that they were not even able to eat. <sup>21</sup> When His family heard this, they set out to restrain Him, because they said, “He’s out of His mind.”

<sup>22</sup> The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul in Him!” and, “He drives out demons by the ruler of the demons!”

<sup>23</sup> So He summoned them and spoke to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan rebels against himself and is divided, he cannot stand but is finished!

# Mark 3:20-35



<sup>27</sup>“On the other hand, no one can enter a strong man’s house and rob his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he will rob his house. <sup>28</sup>I assure you: People will be forgiven for all sins and whatever blasphemies they may blaspheme. <sup>29</sup>But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — <sup>30</sup>because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

<sup>31</sup>Then His mother and His brothers came, and standing outside, they sent word to Him and called Him. <sup>32</sup>A crowd was sitting around Him and told Him, “Look, Your mother, Your brothers, and Your sisters are outside asking for You.”

<sup>33</sup>He replied to them, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” <sup>34</sup>And looking about at those who were sitting in a circle around Him, He said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! <sup>35</sup>Whoever does the will of God is My brother and sister and mother.”

Christ did not come to be  
the King of Capernaum.

He came to be the  
King of Kings!

# Mark 3:20-21



<sup>20</sup> Then He went home, and the crowd gathered again so that they were not even able to eat. <sup>21</sup> When His family heard this, they set out to restrain Him, because they said, “He’s out of His mind.”

***He’s CRAZY!***



Fear of God

Fear of Man

# Mark 3:22

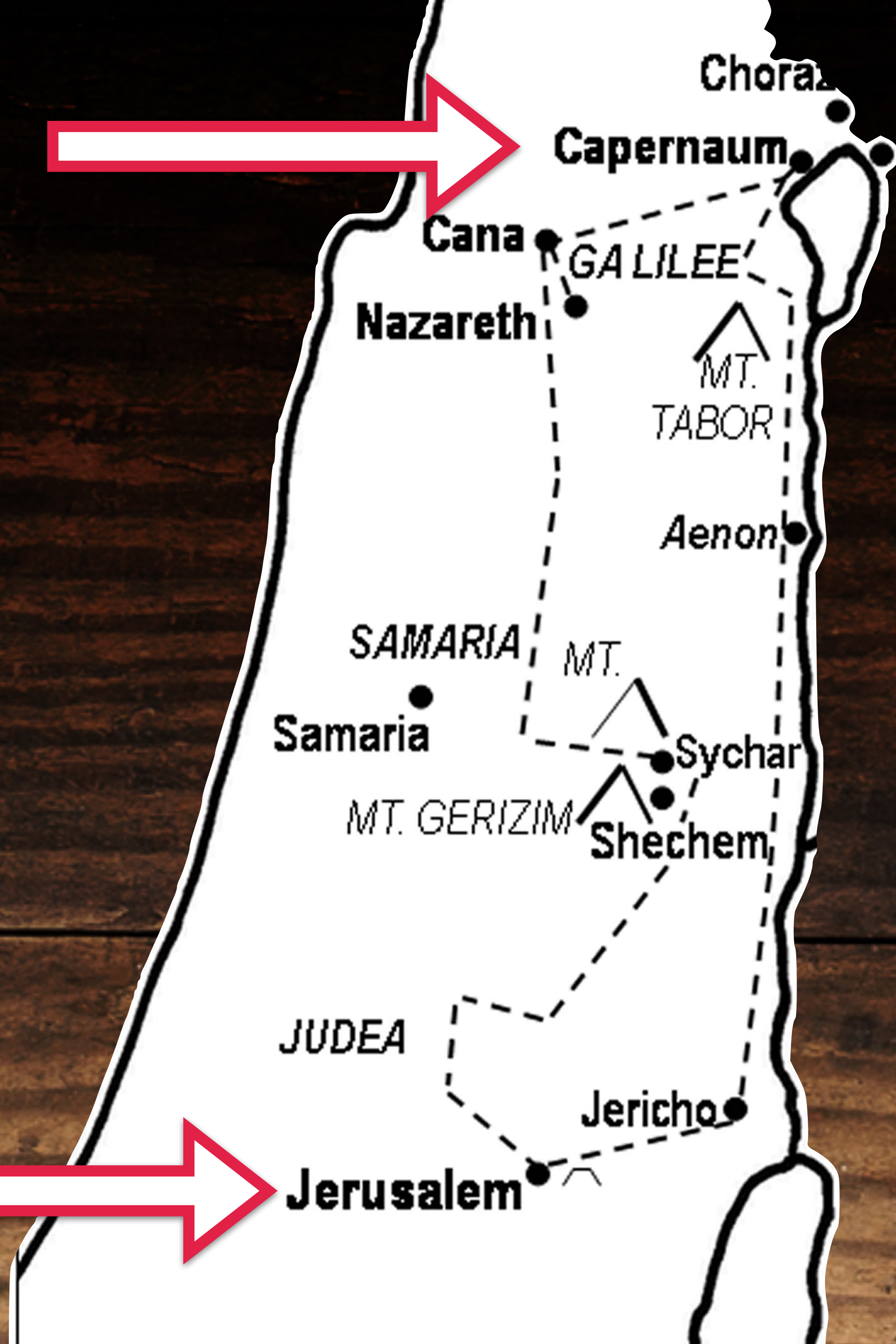


<sup>22</sup> The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul in Him!” and, “He drives out demons by the ruler of the demons!”

# Capernaum

- About 90 miles
- Treacherous
- 5-7 days by foot

# Jerusalem



# Mark 3:22



<sup>22</sup> The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul in Him!” and, “He drives out demons by the ruler of the demons!”

***He's POSSESSED!***

**can·cel cul·ture**

**/'kɑnsəl 'kəlCHər/**

If you can't beat them,  
destroy them.

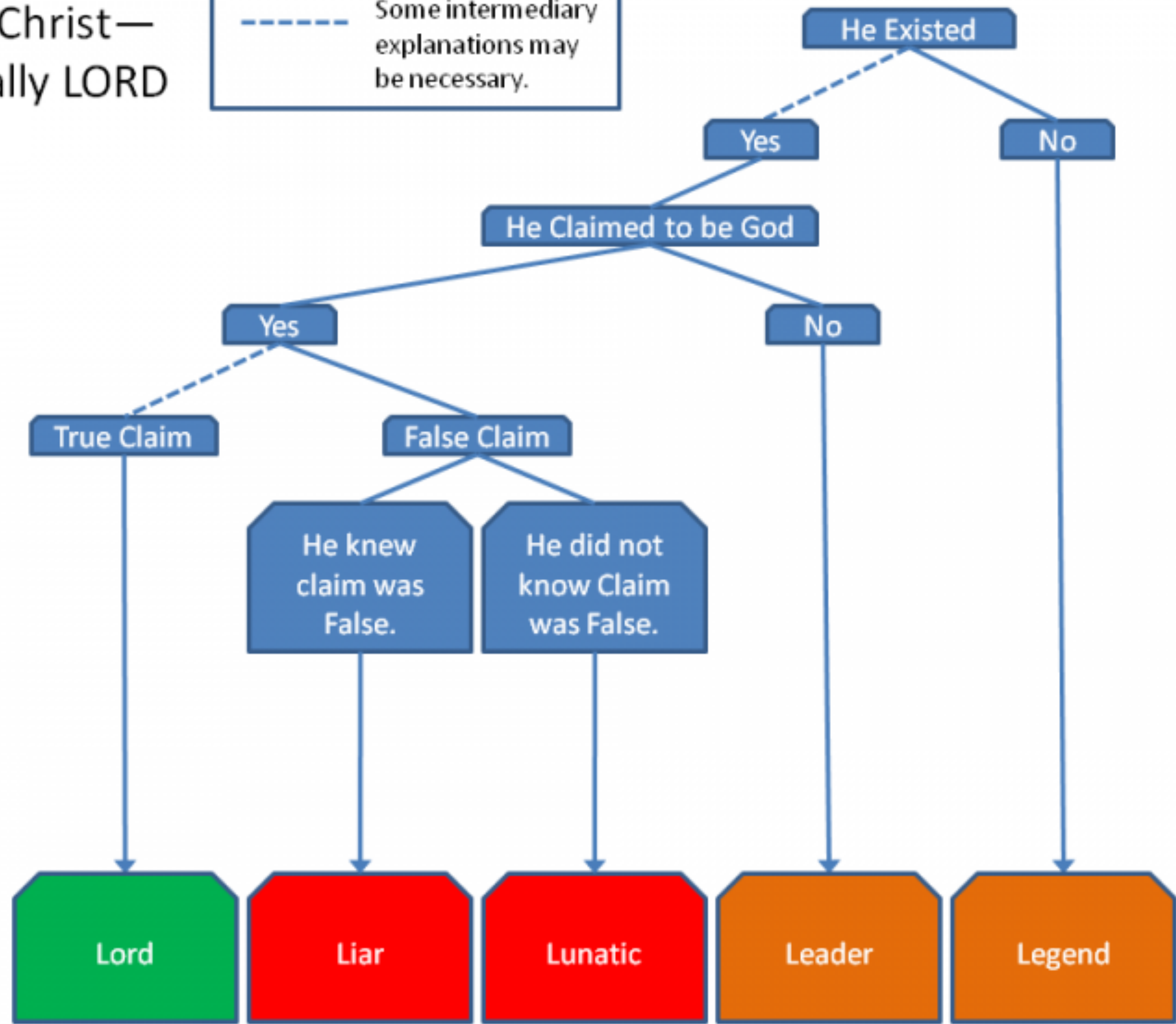
**Cancel Culture (circa 32 A.D.)**

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Jesus: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. 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 the 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 patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

**C.S. LEWIS "MERE CHRISTIANITY"**

# Jesus Christ— Logically LORD

----- Some intermediary explanations may be necessary.



# Mark 3:23-26



<sup>23</sup> So He summoned them and spoke to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan rebels against himself and is divided, he cannot stand but is finished!

**Two Key Truths Disputing  
the Accusations of the Scribes**



**"A house divided against  
itself cannot stand."**

***House Divided Speech***  
**Springfield, Illinois**  
**June 16, 1858**

# Mark 3:27

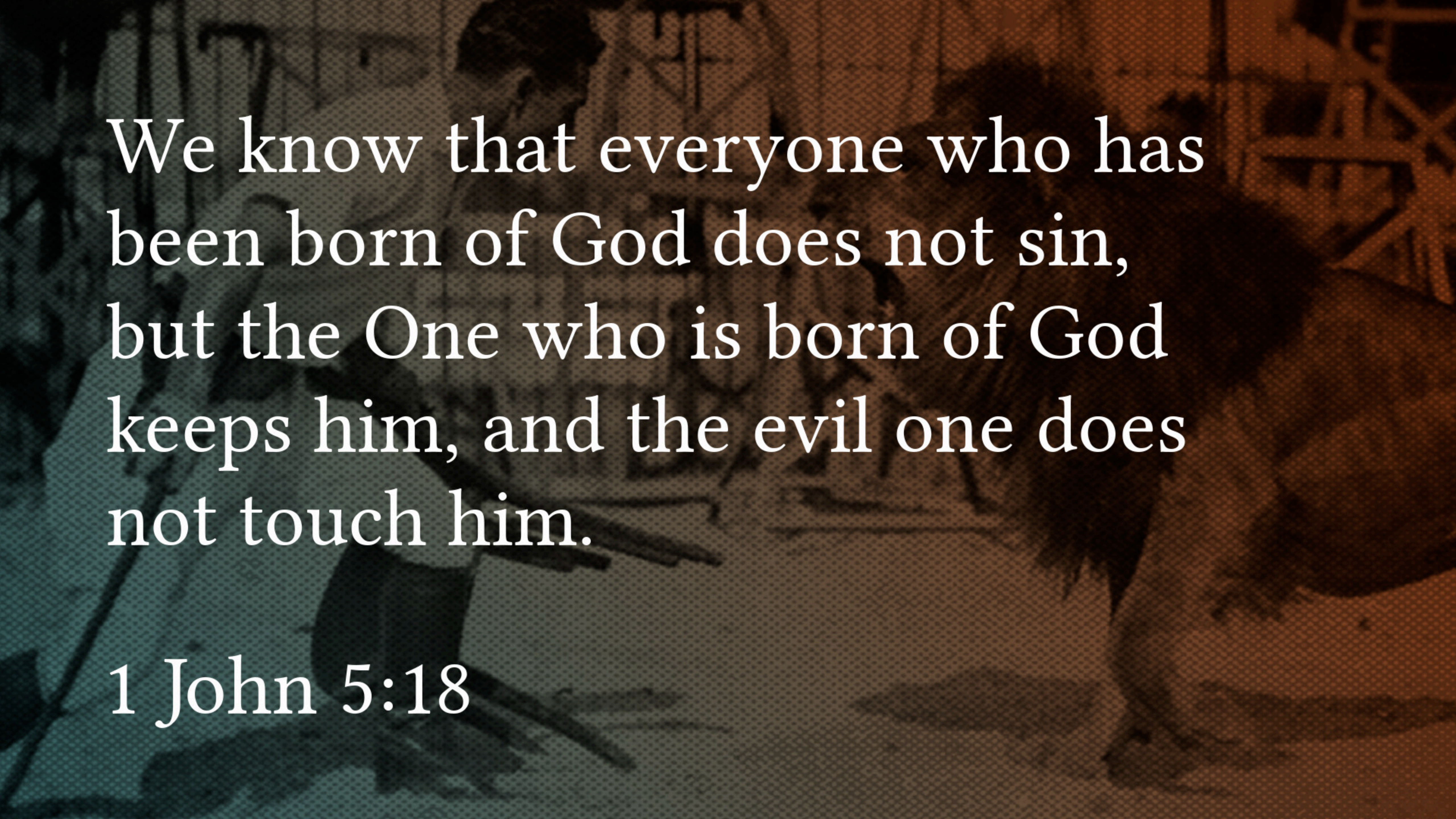


27“On the other hand, no one can enter a strong man’s house and rob his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he will rob his house.

## What does this mean?

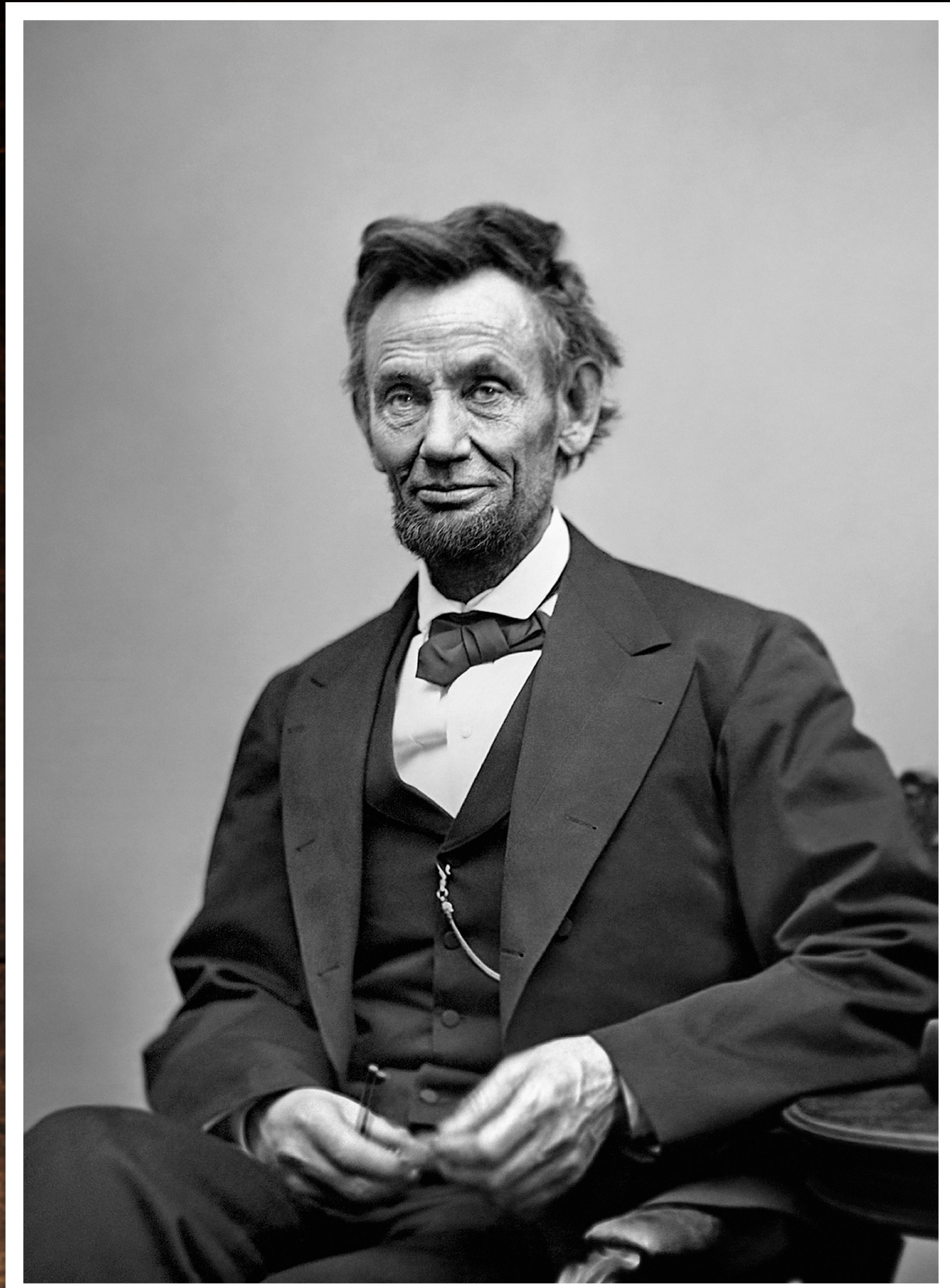


***Home Alone***



We know that everyone who has been born of God does not sin, but the One who is born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.

1 John 5:18



*Abraham Lincoln*

+



*Home Alone*

# Mark 3:28-30



<sup>28</sup>I assure you: People will be forgiven for all sins and whatever blasphemies they may blaspheme. <sup>29</sup>But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” —  
<sup>30</sup>because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

***A Promise  
and  
A Warning***

**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**1 JOHN 1:9**

# Unforgivable Sin?



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<sup>30</sup>because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

***A Promise  
and  
A Warning***



**WHAT IS THE  
"UNPARDONABLE"  
SIN?**

# Unforgivable Sin?



<sup>28</sup>I assure you: People will be forgiven for all sins and whatever blasphemies they may blaspheme. <sup>29</sup>But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” —<sup>30</sup>because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

- **A deliberate, hardened, & persistent rejection of the Holy Spirit’s testimony about Christ.**
- **NOT** simply an **isolated** blasphemous statement.
- **NOT** that God refuses to forgive, but that **the person is in a state of hardness where they will never seek repentance.**

# “One-Way-On-and-Off” City





**To reject your only hope is ultimately  
to have no hope.**



# Mark 3:31-35



<sup>31</sup>Then His mother and His brothers came, and standing outside, they sent word to Him and called Him. <sup>32</sup>A crowd was sitting around Him and told Him, “Look, Your mother, Your brothers, and Your sisters are outside asking for You.”

<sup>33</sup>He replied to them, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” <sup>34</sup>And looking about at those who were sitting in a circle around Him, He said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! <sup>35</sup>Whoever does the will of God is My brother and sister and mother.”

***Christ is redefining “Family” in a culture that has one of the deepest and most loyal understandings in history.***

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Dietrich  
Bonhoeffer

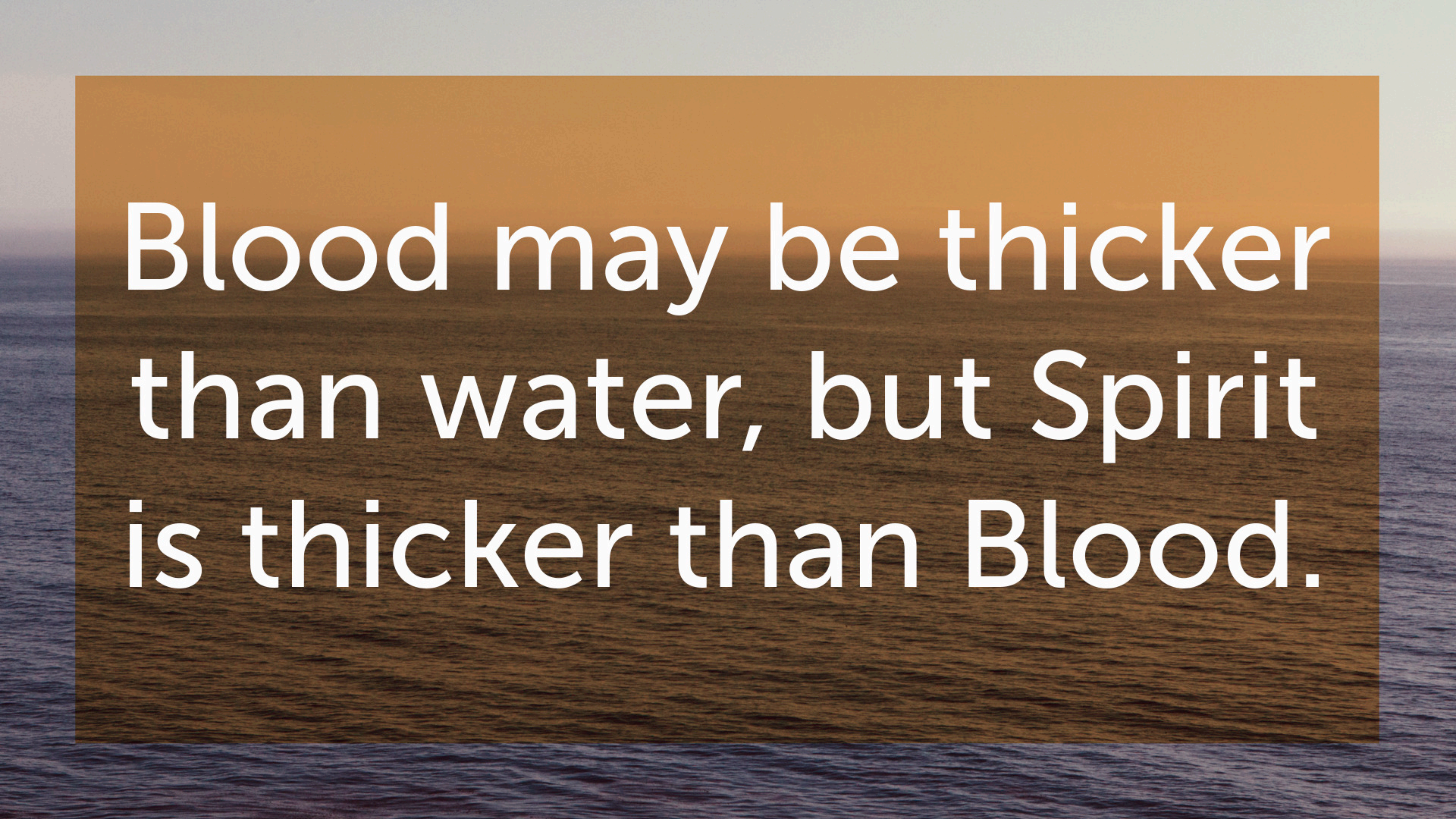
CHRIST  
THE  
CENTER

CHRIST THE CENTER

PER  
OW

Dietrich Bonhoeffer  
(1906-1945)

*Christ the Center*



Blood may be thicker  
than water, but Spirit  
is thicker than Blood.

# Discussion



1. How often do we let fear of man drive our understanding of or our expression of our faith in Christ? How can we resist the fear of man?
2. How do you feel in your heart as you come to the things of God (i.e., scripture, worship times, prayer, etc.)?
3. What do you think of the Trilemma? How can this help as you talk with those outside the faith?
4. Seeing that Christ revealed that the “Family of God” is spiritual first: How does this impact our relationships? How does this help explain the way the early church in Acts shared with each other?