

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 19, 2015

Passage: Mark 3:20-35

Memory Passage: Mark 3:28

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 3:20-35.** Outline (i.e. give titles to) the 3 main sections of this passage (20-21; 22-30; 31-35).

(b) How are the first & third sections similar to each other and how do they connect with the second section?

(c) What did Jesus' family hear ("heard it" in v.21) and why would they say He was "out of his mind?"

(d) What did Jesus' family expect to accomplish when they "went out to seize" Him?

(e) Have your family members or friends ever said you were "out of your mind" because of the way you followed Jesus?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 3:20-35.** What is important about the fact that the scribes "came down from Jerusalem?"

(b) Of what are the scribes accusing Jesus by their taunts in v. 22, and why do they say He is possessed by "Beelzebul" (Hebrew word meaning, "Lord of the flies")?

(c) Why do you suppose Jesus spoke to the scribes "in parables?"

(d) Explain the logic Jesus uses to answer the scribes in vs. 23-26.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 3:20-35.** Who is the "strong man" to whom Jesus refers in v. 27, and of what "goods" does Jesus speak?

(b) Who is the one who "binds" the strong man, and how is this accomplished?

(c) According to these verses, how does Jesus perceive of His ministry of casting out demons?

(d) According to verses 27-28, what is the result of the plundering, and on what basis does this happen?

(e) How are you a recipient of Jesus' work of binding the strong man, and in what specific ways does it make a difference?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 3:20-35.** What is "blasphemy against the Holy Spirit" (remember to keep our context in mind)?

(b) What does Jesus mean by the term, "eternal sin," and why does one who commits it "never have forgiveness?"

(c) How would you answer a person who asked you this: “I am worried that I might have committed this unforgivable sin! How do I know if I have, and what should I do?”

(d) How would you answer the skeptic who said, “See, there are, in fact, some sins that Jesus just can’t forgive!”

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 3:20-35.** How does Jesus distinguish between the crowd “sitting around him” and His family who were “standing outside?”

(b) What is “the will of God” a person must do in order to be identified as part of Jesus’ family, and how is the one who “does the will of God” different from the scribes, Jesus’ mother, and Jesus’ brothers?

(c) How do Jesus’ words in vs. 33-35 instruct you concerning Jesus’ view of the church in comparison to blood family members who do not “do” God’s will? Given what Jesus teaches here, what changes should you make concerning your love for and interaction with your church family, and how will you begin this week to implement these changes?

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Binding, Blasphemy, and Brotherhood