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| 1  Mark 3:7-35  07/09/23  Which Side Are You On?  INTRO:  People throughout ages different thoughts on Jesus  Jesus is:  -liberal scholar believed Jesus got crushed by wheel of history, failed  -Muslims believe he was only a prophet  -Jews believe he is not the Messiah  -Social Activist  -Universalist  -What you believe about Jesus determines your eternal destiny  -heaven or hell  In this passage you will see three answers that the people gave to the question, “Who is Jesus the Nazarene”? | 2  We continue in Mark  -Just finished section on conflicts with Pharisees and scribes  -climax ending of Jesus’ murder planned  -The insiders become outsiders and outsiders become insiders  3:7  -Popularity has soared beyond John the Baptist  -Jesus needs an escape boat  3:12  -Mark gives sweeping statement of Jesus’ ministry  -Jesus does not want any publicity from demons  -Also too early in divine timetable  3:13  -Jesus selects twelve.  -Mountain was meeting place for God and man, a  half-way point like Moses and the 2 tablets  -Selection of disciples was itself a rebuke to rejecting Pharisees |
| 3  Christ would not select wise, nobility, powerful, etc. but poor, ordinary men to be His kingdom delegates  Matthew 19:28  “And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”  Twelve men would play pivotal role in building of church  Revelation 21:14  the new Jerusalem will have “twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”  After selecting disciples through whom kingdom rule would extend, Jesus comes home to the crowd  -the paparazzi  -He didn’t even have time to eat a meal | 4  Jesus’ family get concerned understandably,  -but reach conclusion that He is insane  But story cuts off suddenly in verse 22 and shifts to scribes and Jesus.  We get 1st Markan sandwich  -Mark is not random but intentional  -ABA  -Story A=Jesus’ family vv. 20-21  -Story B=Scribes and Jesus and the unpardonable  sin vv. 22-30  -Story A=Jesus’ family finishes vv. 31-35  Putting side by side to show to you that these stories are similar  Story A is on pause and begin story B in v. 22  -Jesus is casting out demons  -Scribes say he is possessed by Beelzebul |
| 5  orig. Baal-zebul=Baal the prince  -chief god of the Philistine city of Ekron  Mockery and disdain=Baal-zebub with “b”  = “lord of the flies” lit. “lord of the dung”  BY 1st century it referred to Satan  Jesus responds in parables v. 23  -Parables conceal truth to proud  -Reveal truth to humble  Jesus gave two illustrations to show utter insane conclusion that scribes came to  -A civil war within a kingdom is not a good war strategy  -You can’t have factions within your own kingdom  Similarly you need someone stronger to bind the strongman | 6  strongman=satan  one who binds=Christ  property=souls captive by satan  There must be a greater, superior power  What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?  -Many may be concerned you committed  It’s not taking Lord’s name in vain  -as bad as that is  It’s not some horrific one time sin you committed  Jesus said all sins and blasphemies shall be forgiven  What it is…  Rejecting Christ after seeing the full revelation of Himself in His deeds and teachings. After seeing the person and work of Christ you come to the opposite conclusion that He is a devil |
| 7  There is no forgiveness for that  Similar to Hebrews 6:4-6  Hebrews 6:4-6 “For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.”  -Persistent state of unbelief and willful rejection of all that Jesus has revealed in His person and work and attributing it to Satan’s power.  -The scribes were actually in league with Satan  John 8:44  “You are of your father, the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. | 8  -Very fact that you are asking the question means you have not committed it  -Story B ends and we resume story A in verse 31  Jesus’ family is there to take him away but Jesus uses occasion to ask them a question  “Who are My mother and My brothers?...”  -Jesus is not purposefully disassociating blood ties with family  -Family is always family  -However they were obstructing the redemptive plan of the Son of God. They were elevating family over God’s kingdom and mission  You can’t be truly Jesus’ “mother, brother, or sister” so to speak unless you follow Him in obedience to His will |
| 9  -Following God is number one priority and relationship for every one of you  -God must be supreme, preeminent  -Obeying Christ and the Scriptures must be non-negotiable, and absolutely uncompromising principle in life to obey even at the  -cost of comforts,  -relationships  -and even life  Mark 8:35  “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.”  Some of you may have lost relationships  family, fame, property, respect of world  Countless believers have lost everything  Muslims will ostracize you if you follow Christ | 10  Discipleship is costly  Grace is not cheap but costly  -Although you may lose everything in life you will gain Christ himself, eternal life itself and whatever you lost on earth you will gain a hundred fold in heaven  That is the promise of the Son  -Are you doing the will of God or your own will?  By putting these two stores side by side Mark shows they are shockingly similar  Both conclusions will send you to hell.  They thought he was illogical, insane, and self-hurting  Now, James and Jude did believe later on, praise the Lord |
| 11  Festus in Acts 26  “Paul you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad!”  Christians and Christianity has always been seen as a crazy religion  -Why would fishermen die for the cross and gospel?  -Why would anyone deny themselves…?  -Why would Christians swear to their own hurt?  -Why would Christians rather suffer harm than inflict harm?  -Who in their right mind would rejoice and have joy in the midst of pain and suffering?  -Why would Christians boast and glory in the most horrific and shameful and excruciatingly painful execution that man has every known?  Did you know Rom. 12:1= “reasonable” service of worship  NASB + ESV = spiritual service of worship | 12  “Logikein” =logic  Why wouldn’t we offer up our bodies after what Jesus has done on the cross?  Why wouldn’t we deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him?  To live for ourselves, sin, passions, our pleasures, only leads to misery and eternal condemnation.  We should rather be the one asking the question “Who in their right mind would want to live for themselves and their sin?  It is insanity to run after money, sex, possessions, fame and glory when all those things are only idols that will condemn you  How mad must be to think that we the poison of sin is enjoyable to drink  -If we did enjoy sin, then it shows just how fallen  and corrupt we are |
| 13  It is absolutely absurd to believe that nothing created everything and that by chance the earth was tilted on its axis at just the right spot so that we wouldn’t freeze or burn to death  -It is a reasonable service to Christ. It is the logical thing to do  Who do you believe Jesus is? Only three options  Liar (demon of hell)  Lunatic  Lord  Can’t say he’s a good teacher  There’s only one right answer  Which side are you on?  -No middle ground  “All those who are not with me are against me” -Jesuss | 14  You cannot be half-hearted when it comes to the Lord  You cannot pick and choose what parts of your life Jesus will be Lord over  You cannot claim to love Jesus or love God unless you keep His commandments  “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments”  Any church that is lukewarm in their faith, Jesus will spit out.  Salvation comes from obeying the Lord Jesus Christ  Doing the will of God  We are not saved by works  our salvation is evidenced by our works  our works vindicate the genuinness of faith |
| 15  Christians can sin and still sin horribly but overwhelming desire to follow and obey Jesus  2 Thessalonians 1:8  Jesus will deal retribution to “those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”  Anyone can give lip service to God but what about obedience?  Luke 6:46 “why do you call Me, Lord, Lord and do not do what I say?”  Only one way, one truth, one life.  Jesus is your Lord and master and obeying Him rest of your lives. All other beliefs lead to hell.  Whose side are you on?  Scribes and Jesus’ family or with disciples like Thomas “My Lord and My God” | 16 |