

FOLLOWING JESUS

RESCUING AND RESISTING JESUS

MARK 3:20-30

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS — NOVEMBER 21, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 3:20-30

20 Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. 21 And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind." 22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." 23 And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. 27 But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. 28 "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— 30 for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

SERMON RECAP

1. A warning to those who are resisting Jesus:

- What is unforgivable sin?

Note: Scripture doesn't give us an exact definition, but we do see a description, much like a progression that includes:

- A persistent rejection of the Gospel
- A flagrant contempt for God's work
- A permanent hardening of the heart

2. A reminder to those who are trying to rescue Jesus:

- Jesus doesn't need us to rescue Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Miracles don't automatically produce faith. In fact, the religious leaders attributed Jesus' miracles to the power of Beelzebub (Satan) rather than to the power of the Holy Spirit. Consider Jesus' response to the religious leaders in His parable. How might you state in your own words what Jesus meant by the parable? (See 1 John 3:8, Mark 1:34, Mark 1:39, Mark 3:11.)
- Unbelief is not merely driven by reason, it is ultimately driven by resistance to the authority of God. What are some evidences we might see of intentional, persistent, and prideful rejection of Jesus' authority?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- As far as our praying and sharing the gospel is concerned, every hard heart is just an opportunity for God to put his redeeming power on display! With that in mind, is there someone that you need to warn? In other words, is there someone who knows the gospel but is continually resisting God's work in their heart?



- There is a difference between trying to represent Jesus and trying to rescue Jesus.
 - Are there any areas where you might be trying to “save” Jesus’ reputation in the culture by softening hard edges so that Christianity doesn’t lose its credibility?
 - Are there any teachings in Scripture that are embarrassing to you? How so? Share this with your Church Group.

LEADER NOTES ON MARK 3:29

“The words of v.29 have caused great anxiety and pain in the history of the church. Many have wondered whether they have committed the “unpardonable sin.” Surely what Jesus is speaking of here is not an isolated act but a settled condition of the soul – the result of a long history of repeated and willful actions of sin through hardness of heart. On the other hand, any who are troubled about this sin give evidence that they have not committed it. If the person involved cannot be forgiven, it is not so much that God refuses to forgive as it is the sinner who refuses to allow him.”

(The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Barker and Kohlenberger, page 151)