

## Who Do You Say I Am? – Mark Scene 8

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Mark 3:20 - 35

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### **Reflection & Discussion Questions**

#### **As Jesus continues his ministry he faces more opposition**

##### **Read and discuss Mark 3:20-35 (Nicolas Zola translation)**

*So he comes home. And the crowd comes together again, so that they cannot even eat their food. And when his family heard, they went out to restrain him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind!" And the scholars who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beezebul! He drives out the demons by the Prince of the Demons!" But calling for them, he began to speak to them in comparisons: "How can the Accuser drive out the Accuser? And if a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. So if the Accuser has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but has reached his end. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods without first binding the strong man. And then one can plunder his house. I assure you, people will be forgiven of all sins and whatever impious slanders they utter, but whoever slanders the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin." For they were saying, "He is possessed by an unclean spirit."*

*Then his mother and his brothers come, and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. Now a crowd was sitting around him, and they tell him, "Look, your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you." And he answers them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" Looking around at those who were sitting around him in a circle, he says, "Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."*

\*What is this passage saying to you?

\*How are these sandwiched stories mutually illuminating to one another?

\*What conclusions do you draw from the types of rejection Jesus faced?

#### **Jesus speaks of a sin that can never be forgiven**

This 'unpardonable sin' – discounting and utterly resisting the work of the Holy Spirit -is not something you can accidentally commit.

\*How has this passage ever been scary or confusing to you?

\*What does this hardness of heart look like? Why does being worried about committing this sin mean you are unlikely to be guilty of it?

#### **Jesus disrupts the traditional, culturally important structure of family**

He again continues the insider/outsider theme and expands the concept of family.

\*Where do you see yourself right now in this story – insider or outsider?

\*What does it mean that other believers are our family? What does that look like in practice today?

**If we are nestled safely in any kind of structure that isn't Jesus himself, it eventually becomes harmful to us**

Jesus comforted afflicted people and afflicted comfortable people.

\*When have you been the afflicted? The comfortable?

\*How can you continually push yourself to the margins like Jesus?

\*What is he challenging you to tear down so you will never go back? How can belonging to Jesus and the true family of God help lead you home?