

SIN, JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Mark 3:20-35 Rev. Brian W. Secor
Broadway Christian Church February 15, 2015

It is my prayer that when we are done today, we will share Chrysostom's view and fear nothing but sin.

I. JESUS AND THE SIN OF WELL-INTENTIONED _____ v. 20-21

A. Jesus' family were afraid that his ministry had cost him his _____.

1. In the movie, "*Man of La Mancha*", Don Quixote's niece, Antonia, piously sings: I'm only thinking of him...
2. If you had asked his family about Jesus & their fear that he had lost his mind because he took no time for meals, would have gotten same response---they were only thinking of _____ — it would have been a lie.
3. Their concern was not for Jesus but for _____.
 - a. What he was doing was having a bad effect upon their image
 - b. His public ministry was causing a scandal for their mother, Mary.
 - c. And then there was the question of priorities.

B. To interfere with a friend or family member who is dedicated to serving the Lord is a sin _____ God.

1. Last week, we talked about the fact that when Jesus calls, his people listen. In any congregation, there are people to whom Jesus is _____. He's calling them to engage in a special ministry for him, a ministry that may well take them out of their comfort zone, away from the familiar & even apart from the family.
2. Many a parent, based upon their love for their child, have tried to divert that child from full-time Christian service. Many a spouse has tried to keep their loved one from going off the deep end in relation to serving Christ with time, talent & treasure. To keep the beloved from following the call of Christ has done so not from concern for the beloved but from very self-centered & selfish motives.
3. Happens because we have our _____ upside down & backwards.
4. We believe a good name as a normal type person, good job, good money, good status is more important than whole-hearted devotion to Christ & his Kingdom. The call of the Kingdom is to put _____ first & to make the growth of his _____ our primary objective in our lives.

II. JESUS AND THE UNPARDONABLE _____ v. 22-30

A. Jesus' enemies said he was ministering by the power of the _____.

1. His family & relatives might misinterpret Jesus but it was left to the theological inquiry group from Jerusalem to deliberately misrepresent Jesus. They said he was _____ possessed, not the divine Son of God come to earth. Jesus is evil.
2. Jesus replies graciously to his detractors.
 - a. He makes a clear unimpeachable statement: If Satan is driving Satan out of people, his kingdom is divided & ready to fall even as a house divided against itself cannot stand. Impossible that Satan should _____ his own.
 - b. The only way Satan, the strong man, can be bound is by a power greater than himself & that power is _____ alone. Therefore if Jesus is casting out demons, he is doing it by the power of God, not the power of Satan.
3. Having refuted by logic their claim that he was evil & acting by power of Satan, he pronounces doom upon them. They have gone too far this time. They have spoken against the Holy Spirit who was at work with Jesus in a dynamic way to bring deliverance to poor souls bound in sin & Satan's night. They have decided that _____ is evil & _____ is good. Therefore there is no hope for them. They remain eternally unforgiven for their speaking ill or blaspheming the work of the Holy Spirit & of the triune God.

B. It is possible to commit the unpardonable sin _____.

1. I have no intention of toning down what Jesus says here. We need to take very seriously how we & others treat the things of God & what he has revealed to us through Jesus. It is one thing to act & speak in ignorance of God. *1 Tim. 1:12-14*
2. What makes the sin unpardonable is several things:
 - a. First the heart is _____. A life lived in hostility towards God remains consistently hostile towards God even at the end.
 - b. God will not _____ belief where unbelief is persistently chosen.

c. To call good, evil & evil, good is to blaspheme the _____ of the Holy Spirit who enlightens every man with the truth of God.

4. I believe it is _____ to commit the unpardonable sin in our time.
 - a. When a person so chooses to close their eyes, hearts & minds to truth & good so that they declare there is no truth & believe that good is evil & evil is good, & persistently reject any offers of grace from the Holy Spirit, denying his mercy & love, there will come a time when that person has passed beyond hope & committed the unpardonable sin. *1 John 5:16-17*.
 - b. Anyone who is seeking after Christ, who longs to know God better, who puts themselves into situations where the Gospel is rightly preached & sacraments properly administered, who pray & read the Bible, who long to be freed from their sins & to flee the wrath to come—anyone in short who is open to & sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to respond to grace, that one has not committed & most likely will never commit the unpardonable sin.
 - c. There is a great deal of difference between a person who has turned back on God & grace & the working of the Holy Spirit & one who trusts Christ yet struggles often & frequently with sin, even persistent sins.

III. JESUS AND THE SIN OF ASSUMING FAMILY MEANS _____ THAN MINISTRY. v. 31-35

A. Jesus' family thought they had a right to _____ him.

1. If you'd have talked to Mary, the boys & the girls of her household, they thought they had the right to control Jesus
 - a. First, they were there to _____ him from himself
 - b. Second, quite possibly, they were coming to let him know that he had duties at _____, especially in relation to Mary, that he needed to fulfil.
2. They believed modern interpretation of the phrase, "Blood is stronger than water." Family meant more than all these strangers. Jesus was not to be about his Father's business but about their business.
3. Jesus says no. _____ is not thicker than water.
 - a. Just because you are my natural family does not mean we share the _____ values, hopes & aspirations. My goal is to do the will of the Father in heaven who sent me & to secure the salvation of mankind. You do not share that value with me but are a hindrance to its fulfilment.
 - b. Just because you are my family does not mean you have a prior _____ on my present life.
 - c. My _____ family is not related to me by blood but through grace & faith.
5. When our family interferes with our service to God, they must be _____
 1. Blood is not thicker than water. The original proverb, which seems to date back 3000 years according to Jewish sources was "The blood of the covenant is thicker than the water of the womb." Points us to Prov. 18:24 "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."
 2. The friend that sticks closer than a brother is a fellow _____ in Jesus Christ.
 3. If Christ would teach us anything here, it is that we need to get our _____ right.
 - a. We put no hindrances in the path of family members to serving Christ.
 - b. While we love & do whatever we can for our family, we are even more committed when it comes to our brothers & sisters in the Lord. We join w/ them in living to the glory & honor of our Lord. One in the Spirit, one in the Lord, we are truly family.

And so we come to the end of Mark's first three chapters. In these chapters, Mark has established clear _____.

1. "Jesus has established his relationships as the hero of the masses, leader of the disciples, enemy of Satan and member of family of God. Each identity adds credence to Mark's argument that he is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The masses acclaim him, the disciples follow him, Satan abhors him, and all who obey him become his sisters and brothers. Mark is (now) ready to introduce us to the teaching of Jesus." John Ogilvie, *Commentary* p. 87
2. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!