

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 3:8-15

Psalm 130

Wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love. (v7)

2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1

Mark 3:20-35

PRAYER OF THE DAY

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life & defeat into victory. Increase our faith & trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Mark 3:20-35

[Jesus went home;] ²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus & the disciples] could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, & by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." ²³And he called them to him, & spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself & is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man's house & plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. ²⁸Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins & whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—³⁰for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit." ³¹Then his mother & his brothers came; & standing outside, they sent to him & called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; & they said to him, "Your mother & your brothers & sisters are outside, asking for you." ³³And he replied, "Who are my mother & my brothers?" ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother & my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother & sister & mother."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

1. How does this story connect with the OT reading? With these later episodes (*Mark 6:1-6; 13:9-13; also Matthew 10:16-38; Luke 12:49-53*) & with *John 8:31-59 (also 5:17-46)*?
2. What are the Old Testament penalties for blasphemy & dishonoring one's mother & father (*Exodus 21:17, 22:28, 23:13; Leviticus 19:26b, 31, 24:16; Deuteronomy 13:1-11, 18:19-21*)? How are the Pharisees attempting to exploit this against Jesus? How does Jesus expose their own contempt for God (& family; cf. *Matthew 23:1-38; Mark 7:6-13*)? What does last week's lesson from *John 3:1-17 (cf. 3:18-21)* add? Who has tied up the strong man (and who is the "strong man")? Does Jesus have any reason to be afraid of their posturing & threats? See *Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; John 7:30, 8:20, 10:17-18; Revelation 20:1-3*

EACH OTHER- Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ

3. How do we expect to stand when we are divided in our hearts & minds against faithfulness to Jesus in his Church & success in everyday life? Remember faithfulness is trust that builds to knowledge that builds to allegiance, or loyalty. See *Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Joshua 24:14-28; 1Kings 18:21; Ezekiel 33:7-11; Joel 2:13-14; Matthew 7:21-23; Mark 4:1-9, 13-20; Galatians 5:13-26; Revelation 2:1--3:22*
4. Does God have any grandchildren? Do we go to heaven based on our families' church "membership"? See *vv33-35; Matthew 3:9; Luke 11:27-28; John 8:31-59; Acts 3:11-16; Romans 8:12-17; 2 Timothy 1:3-7*

NEIGHBORS- Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters

5. Between the Sermon on the Mount, the Greatest Commandment(s), the Great Commission, the 10 Commandments, the New Testament calls to holiness, the world thinks Christians are out of their minds. If the story of Jesus' death, resurrection, & promised return is true (and it is!) then how are Christians the only ones in their right minds? See *Romans 12:2; 2 Cor 5:1-21; Ephesians 4:17-32; Small Catechism: 10 Commandments SC available <bookofconcord.org> You can google & find those other passages this week*
6. How does this Bible story equip you to deal with someone who says, "God would never forgive me for what I've done"? How does the Apostles' Creed & its explanation help you make the case for God at work in someone else's life to cause repentance & grant forgiveness? See SC: Apostles' Creed

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Second Sunday after Pentecost
Series: A Contrasting Kingdom

06.06.21
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

United in Battle & Triumph

*God's kingdom is united by Jesus himself against "momentary afflictions"
like Satan & evil powers.*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: But no one can enter a strong man's house & plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. (v27)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

The ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself. (*John 12:31, 32*)

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