

# Redefining How I see Jesus.

2.4.18

Mark Series

Mark 3:20–35 (NIV)

<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. <sup>21</sup> When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

<sup>22</sup> And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

<sup>23</sup> So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. <sup>27</sup> In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin."

<sup>30</sup> He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

<sup>33</sup> "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

<sup>34</sup> Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

## 1. Our perspective matters.

A. The older I get the more I am learning that my perspective matters.

1. Think with me about this cup.

a. Is it half full or half-empty?

- b. That depends on what is in it.
- c. How do I view this if it is the nasty medicine that has to be drunk?
- d. Or if this is the last of my drinking water for the rest of the day?
- e. How do I view this if this is my favorite drink?

2. I'm learning that the way I see myself and the world makes a big difference.

a. As we have gone through this building project, I've had to watch my perspective.

1. When I'm tired or stressed, I've had to remind myself that this is an honor to be getting to do something like this.

2. Not every church or every pastor will be part of a move of God like this.

b. This attitude is much healthier than complaining or grumbling.

1. And it applies to whatever stage of life we are in.

2. How you view your marriage, your children, your job, and your current struggles or opportunities are very important.

3. And, usually, our attitude and perspective have a direct connection to our view of Jesus.

B. How we view situations and circumstances determine if we will grow or fail.

1. The difference between a trial and a temptation is the motive behind it.

a. Tests are designed to bring out the best in us.

b. Temptations are designed to lead us to failure.

c. God will never tempt us, but he will test us.

2. **The right perspective will help foster the right attitude.**

a. **The right attitudes create the proper emotions.**

b. **The proper emotions will result in the correct action.**

**3. When our perspectives and views are messed up, our actions will be too.**

C. Today's passage features 3 groups of people.

1. All of them, to varying degrees, have the wrong view of Jesus.

2. The crowd sees Jesus as someone to meet their needs.

3. The teachers of the law saw Jesus as a fake, fraud, and source of evil.

4. Jesus' family saw Jesus as someone to control and claim as their own.

5. The root of the problem for all three groups lays in their view of Jesus.

6. Today, the central theme is this: **If our perspective on Jesus is right, our attitude and actions will be right as well.**

7. Let's talk about this passage in Mark 3.

## 2. The source of Jesus' power is being questioned.

A. First, Jesus' family questions Jesus' power and actions.

1. This is understandable.

a. Jesus grew up with them.

b. They knew his birth was special.

c. But they didn't understand where this would lead him.

2. Verse 20 says that Jesus' family went to seize him because they thought He was out of his mind.

- a. They literally thought Jesus had gone crazy.
- b. Only a crazy man would be surrounded by crowds all the time.
- c. Only a crazy man would do miracles, and heal the sick, and act like He was Israel's Messiah.
- d. Jesus must have problems, his family thought.
- e. They were embarrassed by Jesus and wanted him to stop ruining the family name.
- f. Their view and perspective of Jesus was messed up and would stay that way until after Jesus' death and resurrection.

3. It needs to be noted that Jesus' family misunderstood Him.

- a. Their intent was not malicious.
- b. They believed they were doing what was best for Jesus and the family.
- c. They acted in ignorance, and Jesus was willing to forgive them.

B. But the religious teachers and scribes went much further.

1. They accused Jesus of being possessed by Beelzebul.

- a. Beelzebul, interestingly, is not the devil.
- b. Beelzebul is a reference to the prince of demons, a demon that is under the authority of Satan.
- c. The teachers weren't accusing Jesus of being Satan, they were accusing him of working for Satan.
- d. They literally were saying that Jesus could do all of these miracles because he worked for Satan.

2. The Pharisees knew what they were doing was wrong.
  - a. They knew that the OT had said the coming Messiah would heal the sick, restore sight to the blind, and raise the dead.
  - b. They saw the incredible work that Jesus was doing.
  - c. Yet, **instead of giving God glory they gave it to the devil.**

3. This is the essence of the Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

- a. I grew up knowing Jesus would forgive all my sins.
  1. EXCEPT for the Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
  2. And I lived in fear that I had committed this sin.
  3. When you grow up a preacher's kid, you don't fear the boogie monster, you fear the unpardonable sin.

- b. What is the Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?

1. "To hate God so much that you willfully attribute something that is unmistakably of God and give the credit to Satan."

2. There are several key components to this:

- a. Your motive must be hate, not ignorance.
  - b. You knowingly know that something IS the unmistakable work of God.
  - c. And you willfully and purposefully give the credit due to God/Holy Spirit and give it to the spirit of Satan.
- c. Clearly, what Jesus was doing He was doing through the power of the Holy Spirit.
    1. His family didn't grasp this, but the Pharisees did.

2. This is why Jesus gently taught his family, yet he threatened the Pharisees.

4. The reason why I am explaining this today is to reassure you that you have not committed the unpardonable sin.

a. Many of us will have moments in our lives where we wonder if God can forgive me.

b. Maybe you are afraid that you have blasphemed the Holy Spirit and won't go to heaven.

c. There are people who have blasphemed the Holy Spirit, but your willingness to be here today tells me that none of you have.

C. How does this apply to me if I don't really have to worry about the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?

1. Let's return back to the idea of perspective.

2. How I view situations or people radically effects my life.

3. Let's look at 3 wrong ways to see Jesus and then 3 ingredients to a healthy view of Jesus.

### 3. 3 Wrong ways to see Jesus.

A. I see Jesus as someone to meet my needs. (crowd)

1. One of the greatest dangers for American Christians is to view Jesus as a spiritual slot machine or as a wish-granting genie.

a. We only pray when we want something.

b. And we want immediate, and instant gratification.

2. This is how the crowds saw Jesus.

a. They had hurts, Jesus could heal, so they chased after Him for his miracle power.

b. This is ok and appropriate for a while.

c. But basing any kind of relationship on what you can get out of it is dangerous and demeaning.

3. This is what the crowds had done.

a. When Jesus starts talking about himself being crucified, people start leaving.

b. People who are in the relationship only for what they can get out of it will leave when things get tough.

c. As we will see later in Jesus' parables, many people fall into this category.

B. **Wrong:** I see Jesus as a fake, fraud, or source of evil. (religious leaders)

1. The Pharisees didn't like Jesus, what He was doing, or the threat to their hold on the people.

a. When a person's position or stability is threatened, most will try to discredit the threat.

b. This is exactly what these leaders tried to do.

c. The Pharisees began to accuse Jesus of working for demons.

2. Jesus showed them how ridiculous this was.

a. "A house divided against itself cannot stand..."

b. Abraham Lincoln said this during the Civil War but Jesus said it first.

c. It didn't make sense for "Satan to cast out Satan..."

d. But when people are trying to discredit someone, the lies don't often make sense.

3. The Pharisees' view of Jesus threatened their eternity.

a. The crowds didn't have a great view.

- b. But Jesus showed them great compassion because they didn't know better and because they were in need.
- c. The Pharisees' view of Jesus was a complete rejection of the Son of God.
- d. I'm afraid that many in our culture today are willfully rejecting Jesus and His power.
  - 1. They call him a fake, a fraud, or a myth.
  - 2. This view of Jesus is very dangerous.
  - 3. So is the next one.

C. Wrong: I see Jesus as someone to control and lay claim too. (Jesus' family).

Mark 3:31–35 (NIV)

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

<sup>33</sup> "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

<sup>34</sup> Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

- 1. Jesus' family assumed that blood was thicker than water.
  - a. Because they were family, they could expect Jesus to do what they wanted, when they wanted.
  - b. They wanted to get ahead of the crowds and those waiting for Jesus on the basis that "they were family".
- 2. Jesus then rocked their world.
  - a. In the new Kingdom, it wasn't blood that brought people into the family of God.
  - b. It was their willingness to do the will of God that made them family.



- c. It isn't where you are from, how much money, or who your family is that matters in the Kingdom.
- d. What matters is your view of who Jesus is.
- e. And when you see Jesus as the Son of God, born of a virgin, who lived a sinless life, died upon the cross, rose from the dead, and will soon return as King of the World....
- f. Then you can't help but do the will of God!
- g. And that makes you family with Jesus.

We have looked at 3 wrong ways to see Jesus. Let's look 3 right ways...

#### 4. I see Jesus....

A. I see Jesus as a willing Savior who satisfies my needs. Vs. 20

1. Jesus isn't a wish-granting genie.

a. But he isn't without power or compassion.

b. Jesus is willing to:

- 1. Heal the sick.
- 2. Forgive the sinner.
- 3. Restore the prodigal.
- 4. And answer your prayers.

2. We don't have to fear to come to Jesus and to ask for his help.

a. He is willing to meet my needs.

b. He loves us and has promised to supply all of our needs.

3. We can ask God for help in time in need because we see Jesus as our loving Savior.

a. The difference between seeing Jesus as Savior and viewing him as a genie in a bottle is relationship.

b. I can ask for anything, in Jesus' name, because He loves me and because I love him.

c. This is how we should view Jesus.

B. I see Jesus who is willing to forgive me of my sins. Vs. 28-29

1. There is an old saying that says, "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth."

a. Meaning, don't find fault with something that has been received as a gift or favor.

b. This is exactly what the religious leaders were doing.

<sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin."

2. It seems like a lot of people today are trying to find fault with their salvation.

a. Many question God's choice of the cross.

b. Many question their need for a savior.

c. Many find fault with how God has chosen to change us, use us, and sanctify us.

d. And in the process, they view Jesus as a myth, legend or a fake.

3. But when I look at Jesus, I see the only one who was ever willing to die for my sins and forgive me of my mistakes.

a. This view has literally changed my life.

b. And when I struggle, or when someone sins against me, I look upon the one who has forgiven me of so much more.

c. And that changes my perspective.

C. Lastly, I see Jesus' desire to make me family. Vs. 35-35

1. Jesus didn't stop with forgiveness.

- a. He made me a full-fledged member of the family.
  - b. And he invited me to serve with Him and for Him.
- 2. As I go where Jesus calls, and do what Jesus asks, I count it my privilege.
  - a. When you go to a Chic-fil-a, and thank one of their workers, one of their main responses is: IT's my privilege.
  - b. Not, that's what I'm paid to do.
  - c. Not, that's what I have to do.
  - d. But, that's what I GET to do.
  - e. What's the primary difference between a McDonalds employee and a Chic-Fil-A employee?
  - f. Their perspective.
- 3. When God calls you to something.
  - a. Your family.
  - b. A ministry or vocation.
  - c. You have two options.
  - d. You can focus on yourself or you can focus on Jesus.
  - e. And when you focus on Jesus, there is a far greater reward.
  - f. He makes you family.

### Closing: My view of Jesus is a life or death decision.

A. This morning, who is Jesus to you?

- 1. Why are you here?
- 2. What are you looking for?
- 3. No matter who you are, your view of Jesus matters.

B. This morning, the Holy Spirit invites you to see Jesus.

1. As your loving Savior.
2. As your healer and provider.
3. As someone who longs to be in a relationship with you.
4. Jesus has done His part, and today it is up to you to make your decision.