

**Mark 3:7-35 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea <sup>8</sup> and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. <sup>9</sup> And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, <sup>10</sup> for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. <sup>11</sup> And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.” <sup>12</sup> And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

<sup>13</sup> And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup> And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach <sup>15</sup> and have authority to cast out demons. <sup>16</sup> He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); <sup>17</sup> James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); <sup>18</sup> Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, <sup>19</sup> and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

<sup>20</sup> Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. <sup>21</sup> And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”

<sup>22</sup> 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.” <sup>23</sup> And he called them to

him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. <sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> “Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — <sup>30</sup> for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

<sup>31</sup> And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup> And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” <sup>33</sup> And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” <sup>34</sup> And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!” <sup>35</sup> For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

**Opening Discussion Questions**

Share name, how long you've been part of this bible study, and one thing you're thankful for

### Bible Study Questions

1. How popular has Jesus gotten in Mk 3:7-10? Why? Whereabouts are people coming from to see Jesus?

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2. What is the significance of Mk 3:11? Is it enough to profess Jesus as Son of God? (James 2:19) What do you think of "sinner's prayer"?

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3. What did Jesus empower these twelve to do? What do you know of these twelve disciples/apostles?

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Simon/Peter:

James:

John:

Andrew:

Philip:

Bartholomew/Nathaniel:

Matthew/Levi:

Thomas/Didymas:

James son of Alphaeus:

Thaddaeus/Judas:

Simon the Zealot:

Judas Iscariot:

4. In Mk 3:21, Jesus is called "out of his mind" by his own family. Has your family ever called you "out of your mind" for following Christ? Share

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5. What arguments is Jesus making regarding Satan, divided house, and strong man in Mk 3:23-27?

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6. What does it mean to blaspheme the Holy Spirit? Why is this an unforgivable/eternal sin? (Mk 3:28-30, Mt 12:31-32, 1 Tim 1:12-14, Mt 12:34)

Does the idea of an unforgivable/eternal sin apply to us today (John 15:26; 16:7-8)?

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7. What is the significance of Jesus' declaration of who his mother and brothers are as described in Mk 3:31-35? (Ex 20:12)

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8. What is a key learning or takeaway from today's study?

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