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# Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

## Introduction

We will explore Mark 3:20-30, where Jesus addresses the concept of the unpardonable sin, or blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. This passage challenges us to consider the gravity of attributing God's work to evil and the importance of recognizing and honoring the Holy Spirit's role. As we dive deeper, reflect on how we might inadvertently ignore or resist the Spirit in our lives and how we can ensure our actions align with God's truth. Let's discuss practical ways to cultivate a responsive heart to the Spirit's leading.

## <u>Disciple Measure</u>

**Spirit-Led Follower:** What does it mean to you to be Spiritled? How well do you think you do that?

#### Notes:

# **Discussion Questions**

#### **Understanding the Unpardonable Sin**

#### **HIGHLIGHT**

Have someone read aloud...

Mark 3:20-30

#### **EXPLAIN**

Discuss the following questions...

**Opening Question:** What have you heard about unpardonable sins before?

- 1. Why do you think Jesus' family initially misunderstood His identity?
- 2. The religious leaders accused Jesus of being possessed by Beelzebul. Why do you think they came to this conclusion despite witnessing His miracles?
- 3. What's the difference between rejecting Christ and committing the unpardonable sin? Why is this distinction important?

Have someone read aloud Matthew 12:22-24

- 4. How does the response of the crowd differ from the Pharisees? Why do you think the Pharisees missed what the crowd saw?
- 5. How does understanding the context of Mark 3:20-30 help clarify the meaning of the "unpardonable sin"?
- 6. How does the concept of the unpardonable sin highlight the importance of responding to God's revelation in our lives?

# Application Questions Notes:

#### **APPLY**

Discuss the following questions...

Have someone read aloud **Ephesians 4:30**.

- 1. The sermon mentions two ways believers can sin against the Holy Spirit: grieving and quenching. What do these mean, and how might we avoid them in our daily lives?
- 2. What does the Holy Spirit do for us?
- 3. How does grieving the Holy Spirit affect our relationship with the Holy Spirit, and how does it affect our relationship with others?

#### **RESPOND**

Force for Good: Who are you investing in by sharing the Gospel or discipling right now? Who is someone you need to share the Gospel with or disciple? For resources to start a Discipleship Group, click

#### **Prayer:**

Thank God for His forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ask for help in being more sensitive to the Spirit's leading and for the strength to resist grieving or quenching His work in our lives.

**here** or scan the QR code.

## **Questions for Families**

Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.

#### Mark 3:20-30

### What does this story tell us about who Jesus is and how powerful He is?

For young children, focus on Jesus having the power to help and heal people. For older kids, discuss how His actions showed God's love and authority, and how others misunderstood His power.

### Why do you think the religious leaders in the story had a hard time believing in Jesus?

Encourage younger kids to think about how sometimes people don't understand things they cannot see. With older children, discuss how stubbornness or fear can prevent us from accepting the truth.

### How can we show that we believe in the good things the Holy Spirit does in our lives?

Younger kids might suggest simple actions like praying or being kind. Older children can talk about letting the Holy Spirit guide their decisions and actions, choosing to trust in God's goodness.

## NT 260

#### **WEEK: 20**

- Mark 5
- Mark 6
- Mark 7
- Mark 8
- Mark 9

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 5:40-42

## Resources

#### Resources to Listen to

#### **BEMA: Mark - Roman Gospel**



Marty Solomon dives into the context and message of the Gospel of Mark. (39 min)

### The Forgotten Jesus Podcast -The Unpardonable SIn



Pastor Robby dives into two questions that Christians sometimes wrestle with. Demon possession and the unpardonable sin. (33 min)

### **Resources to Watch**

### **Bible Project Guide - Mark**



The Bible Project gives an in-depth guide through Mark with multiple resources and videos (10 min)

## Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at groups@longhollow.com.

## **D-Group Resources**

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.





# Commentary

#### Notes:

#### What's Going On?

In Mark 3:20-30, we're in the middle of a tense situation where Jesus is becoming quite well-known for His miracles and teachings. He's inside a house, and it's so packed with people that they can't even eat! This popularity isn't sitting well with some folks, though. First, Jesus' own family thinks He's lost His mind and wants to stop Him from causing a stir. This misunderstanding sets up a theme in Mark about who Jesus really is and what He's come to do.

Then, there are the religious leaders, the scribes, who come with an accusation. They've seen how Jesus works miracles, like casting out demons, and instead of acknowledging His divine authority, they claim He's doing this through the power of Beelzebul, a name used for the prince of demons. This is serious because they're saying the good and miraculous acts of Jesus are actually evil.

This passage leads to Jesus teaching about the unpardonable sin—blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Jesus points out that all sins and blasphemies can be forgiven, but attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to evil is an eternal sin. This story shows how some can see Jesus' miracles and still not understand or accept who He truly is.

**Biblical Timeline** 



Creation The Exodus from Egypt

#### A Bit of Background

Historically, understanding this part of Mark means knowing a little about the religious atmosphere of the time. The Jewish leaders, like the scribes in the story, were experts in religious law and very influential. They were watching Jesus closely because His growing influence threatened their power and understanding of religious law.

This part of the Gospel is set in Galilee, where Jesus did much of His early teaching and healing. Many people followed Him because they were amazed by His miracles and authority. However, not everyone saw Jesus positively. His radical teachings challenged both religious leaders and traditional Jewish families. The charge of using Beelzebul's power was a way to discredit Jesus while trying to maintain their authority over the people.

In this time, calling someone demon-possessed was a serious accusation, reflecting deep spiritual blindness. Those leaders had all the evidence of Jesus' divine power but chose to explain it away instead of embracing the truth.

So, when Jesus talks about the unpardonable sin here, He's not just addressing their words. He's highlighting a complete and willful rejection of the Holy Spirit's work, showing how far they've strayed from understanding God's true intentions and presence.

Mark 3

Birth of Crucification Christ and Resurection

End of Revelation

Notes:

Today's highlighted passage and other related passages

## Sermon Notes

#### Mark 3:20-30 CSB

Jesus entered a house, and the crowd gathered again so that they were not even able to eat. When his family heard this, they set out to restrain him, because they said, "He's out of his mind." The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and, "He drives out demons by the ruler of the demons." So he summoned them and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand but is finished. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder his house. "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for all sins and whatever blasphemies they utter. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin", because they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

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# Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

A disciple who is always looking for ways to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

every opportunity to help people take their next step ::

closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking
for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak
truth into someone's life.

When a disciple lives out their Godgiven calling, they naturally become a force for good :: where they live, work, and play. This type of person is : looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.

