



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

When Jesus Is Your Brother June 10th, 2018

(Mark 3:20-35)

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

²² And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebub! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.”

²³ So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶ And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. ²⁷ In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house. ²⁸ I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. ²⁹ But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin.”

³⁰ He said this because they were saying, “He has an evil spirit.”

³¹ Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.”

³³ “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked.

³⁴ Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

1. If Jesus was your biological brother, do you think that would be helpful to your faith? Or would it make it more difficult for you to believe that he was actually the Savior? Why do you think it was such a difficult thing for Jesus’ half brothers and sisters to believe in him?
2. The claim made by the Teachers of the Law was unreasonable and ridiculous, as Jesus points out in vs. 23-26. Even though their claim was highly illogical, why do you think they still tried to spread this rumor? What couldn’t they refute? What were they trying to get people to stop believing?
3. Based on vs. 28-29, what would you say is the only unforgivable sin? (AKA, what is this “sin against the Holy Spirit?”) Based on what you know about how we have forgiveness of sins, and how we receive that forgiveness Jesus won for us, why would we call that the only unforgivable sin?
4. **Agree/Disagree:** Based on vs. 29, if a person is an unbeliever, they have no chance to be forgiven and go to Heaven. (It might be helpful to consider the different characters we meet in this story to help formulate your answer.)
5. In what ways has Jesus “tied up the strong man” Satan? What are the possessions that Jesus has plundered from his “house?”
6. How does a person belong to God’s family? Give at least three reasons why being part of God’s family is even a greater blessing than being part of an earthly family.