



# **JESUS: The Servant of God**

**A verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of Mark**

## **The Gospel and the Unforgivable Sin**

**Mark 3:22-35**

**Message #9**

**Sermon given on December 6, 2025**



**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The Gospel and the Unforgivable Sin

**Mark 3:22-35**

## Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Mark 3**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Mark – **JESUS: The Servant of God**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

## Teaching

- **The Gospel and the Unforgivable Sin**
- The gospel message is simple – so simple that a young child can understand it and come to faith in Christ.
- I have chosen to do things that are wrong.
- Because I chose to do those wrong things, I cannot go to heaven.
- But God wants me to go to heaven, so He sent His Son Jesus to save me.
- To save me Jesus had to die on the cross because of the wrong things I chose to do.
- If I believe that Jesus died for my sins, all my sins are forgiven, and I will go to heaven.
- The gospel is simple; it is easy to understand and accept.
- Not everything about Christianity is so simple.
- Eternal life in heaven is easy to accept, even if we don't fully understand what that means.
- Eternal torment in Hell for those who reject the gospel is not so easy to accept.
- I do accept it; it is just harder to accept.
- Today we come to a text that has caused people to pause and question their faith.
- It is my prayer that this message will put your hearts at peace.
- The background for today's text is that Jesus has been working in the power of the Holy Spirit doing miraculous things.
- He healed a man with a withered hand, which made the religious Jews angry because Jesus did it on the Sabbath.

- After leaving the synagogue Jesus healed anyone and everyone who came to Him.
- He also cast out demons and commanded them not to speak.
- He spent a whole night in prayer with the Father as He chose the Twelve apostles.
- He was so busy doing the work of the kingdom of God that He didn't have time to eat.
- His family found out, and they wanted to take Him back to Nazareth.
- **Mark 3:22**
- The context of this is **Matthew 12:22**.

**Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.**

- Witnesses asked, could this be the Son of David?
- In other words, could this be the Messiah?
- The religious Jews can't stand for this.
- They had to find a way to turn the people away from Christ.
- They accuse Jesus of being possessed by the Devil.
- Beelzebub = prince/lord of demons.
- After two millennia, the Devil is still using this tactic against people.
- When someone calls President Trump, or any conservative, a fascist, they don't care that it is not true.
- They know weak-minded people will believe it is true, reject President Trump, and repeat the lie.
- Jesus uses logic to show them the foolishness of saying that.
- **Mark 3:23-26**

- Challenges their logic - Doesn't make sense.
- It would be like an admiral in the US Navy ordering an attack against a US Army base.
- He then uses a parable to explain what He means.
- **Mark 3:27**

- The strong man is Satan, and his house is the world bound under his sway.
- His goods are the souls he has captured in sin and demon possession.

- For someone to come into Satan's house and plunder his goods, to deliver people from the bondage of sin and demon possession, that person must be stronger than Satan.
- Jesus came and cast out demons, taking them away from Satan's control
- Every healing Jesus did set someone free from the consequence of sin in the world.
- Jesus binds the strong man and there is nothing he can do about it.
- The scribes [religious lawyers] accuse Jesus of being possessed by Satan.
- Jesus is going to give them a severe warning, but He prefacing it with a glorious truth.

- **Mark 3:28**

- Sin is doing anything that is contrary to the ways, will, or word of God.
- God's standard for living a good human life is perfection.
- The word sin literally means missing the mark.
- It is taken from archery, missing the bullseye.
- God's standard is a bullseye with every shot you take; every word, thought, and deed.
- If you miss even once, you are a sinner.
- Because everyone here is human, I know you have all missed the mark at least once in your life, probably more than once.
- Is it possible to mess up so many times that you exhaust God's mercy and grace?
- Not according to this verse.
- All sins will be forgiven – all blasphemies too!
- I don't know about you but that takes a huge weight off me.
- Not so fast, the next verse begins with a but.

- **Mark 3:29-30**

- There is a condition under which a person will not be forgiven and instead is deserving of eternal condemnation or judgment.
- If someone commits this unpardonable sin they can never go to heaven.
- Can we commit this sin?

- How do we avoid this sin? - Turn to **Isaiah 1**.
- Verse 28 tells us that all sins will be forgiven.
- One of the most glorious truths.
- Jesus died for the sin of the whole world. **1 John 2:2**

**He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not ours only but also for the whole world.**

- Not just some of our sin, all of it.

- **Isaiah 1:18**

- No matter how bad your sins are God is willing to forgive.
- Jesus' sacrifice was enough to cover all the sin of everyone who has ever lived.
- So how can there be an unpardonable sin?
- Verse 29 says the scribes were guilty of the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is here for a reason. **John 16:8-11**

<sup>8</sup>And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: <sup>9</sup>of sin, because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup>of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; <sup>11</sup>of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

- Earlier in this chapter Jesus was angry with Pharisees over their hard-heartedness.
- They were not yielded or sensitive to Holy Spirit.

- **Isaiah 1:19**

- God wants us to be willing and obedient.
- Willingness and obedience are only possible if we yield to the work of the Holy Spirit and let Him do it in us.
- The scribes were not willing to obey God as He revealed Himself through His Son as Jesus manifested the power of God the Holy Spirit.
- There are consequences for unwillingness and disobedience.

- **Isaiah 1:20**

- This is not someone who makes a mistake or sins accidentally.
- Not even someone who is spiritually weak and falls in temptation.
- This person knows what they are doing.
- They know what God wants.
- They don't care what God thinks about it.

- Verse 29 is referring to someone who has heard the gospel and told God no!
- This person has felt the conviction of the Spirit.
- They have rejected or ignored that conviction, choosing to rebel against the Holy Spirit, calling them to believe.
- They refuse to humble themselves before God.
- I cannot tell you how many times someone has come to me concerned about whether they have committed the unpardonable sin.
- Here is a fact – if you care about what God thinks about your sin, then you haven't committed the unpardonable sin.
- All your sins will be forgiven.
- Just repent, confess, receive forgiveness.
- You are forgiven – white as snow.
- If you don't care what God thinks about your sin, watch out! You are in danger of eternal condemnation = Judgment/Hell!
- Have any questions about that come see me
- Turn back to **Mark 3**
- Jesus has recently picked the 12 apostles.
- Comes down, multitudes come for healing – casting out demons.
- So many that Jesus and disciples have no time to eat.
- Word gets back to Jesus' family. **Mark 3:20-21**

**Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, "He is out of His mind."**

- 'His own people' = family.
- They're convinced 'out of His mind'.
- Want to take Him home to Nazareth.
- **Mark 3:31**
- Can't get to Him because of crowds.
- Jesus' mother = Mary or Virgin Mary.
- Message gets to Jesus.
- **Mark 3:32-33**
- Was Jesus saying didn't care about family?
- Hardly! Jesus loved His family perfectly!
- From the cross **John 19:26-27**

**When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then He said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.**

- Jesus pointing to a higher family.

- **Mark 3:34-35**

- Family more than what biology has given.
- I was blessed to spend Thanksgiving with all three of my children and their families.
- We were created for a different family.
- One not determined by genetics but determined by the will of God.
- Jesus says doing God's will makes you a part of Jesus' family.
- Bible teaches clearly that anyone can be part of God's family.

**Romans 8:16-17**

**The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.**

- One of the names for God is Father.
- Not everyone can use that name. **John 1:12-13**

**As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

- Jesus says only one way to do that. **John 14:6**

**Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**

- The scribes were guilty of the unpardonable sin; they rejected the conviction of the Holy Spirit and chose to remain in their lost state.
- If you have received Christ, you are a part of His family and you have the promise of verse 28 – all your sins will be forgiven.
- As we move deeper into the Christmas season, rejoice in the family God gave you, the biological and the spiritual.
- They may not be perfect, but they are family.
- Let's pray for God's blessing on our family and that He would add to it those He wants to save.
- **Pray – Last Song**