

Would you rather...

- Have non-functioning bat wings, or four arms?
- Have braces or a bad haircut for ever?
- Live in a world of giants, or in a world where everyone has a different mindset?
- Be laughed at for something you are proud of, or be completely unnoticed?



M A R K

The Gift of God





Are You Crazy?

Mark 3:20-35

Mark 3:20-35



- Two groups or three?
 - If *His own people* (21) = *His mother and brothers* (31)
 - Then did Mary think He was *crazy*?
 - Did she forget who He was? (see Luke 1:46-55)

Mark 3:20-35



- Two groups or three?
 - If *His own people* (21) \neq *His mother and brothers* (31)
 - Then why was Mary looking for Him?
 - Because of what people were saying?
 - For rest and refreshment?

Mark 3:20-35



- Problem *A*: His ministry is hurting Him
- Conclusion *A*: “He has lost His senses”
 - Problem *B*: His ministry is real/effective
 - Conclusion *B*: ‘He’s in cahoots with Satan’
 - Response *B*: ‘I’m stronger than Satan’
- Response *A*: ‘Do the will of God’

Group 1



- Problem A: His ministry is hurting Him
 - Jesus + disciples return to Capernaum
 - The crowd prevents them from eating
 - Similar situation: Mark 6:30-44

Group 1



- Conclusion A: “He has lost His senses”
 - Encouraging large crowds to follow Him
 - Not able to eat (3:20; 6:31)
 - Almost crushed! (3:9)
 - Tangling with religious leaders (2:1-3:6)
 - *Megalomania?*

Group 1



- Conclusion A: “He has lost His senses”
 - He is *out of His mind; beside Himself; crazy; delusional; irrational*
 - Custody: *arrest - by force if necessary*
(6:17; 12:12; 14:1; 44, 46, 51)

Group 2



- Problem *B*: His ministry is real/effective
 - *The scribes who came down from Jerusalem*
 - Jesus claims to be God and performs miracles to back it up
 - We know *He can't be God*, so...

Group 2



- Conclusion *B*: ‘He’s in cahoots with Satan’
 1. “He is possessed by Beelzebul”
 - Chief or prince of demons – i.e. - Satan
 - “He has an unclean spirit” (30)

Group 2



- Conclusion *B*: ‘He’s in cahoots with Satan’
 2. “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.”
 - Sorcery or *black magic*
 - The chief demon commands the others

Group 2



- Response *B*: 'I'm stronger than Satan'
 - *How can Satan cast out Satan?*
 - Boxers don't punch themselves in the head!
 - Their claim makes no sense

Group 2



- Response *B*: 'I'm stronger than Satan'
 - What does make sense is that Jesus is stronger and is *ruling the ruler*
 - Even the demons acknowledged this (1:24, 34; 3:11)

Group 2



- Stern warning (*The Unpardonable Sin*)
 - The scribes saw the miracles produced by the Holy Spirit and rejected His witness
 - They attributed the work of the Holy Spirit to an unclean spirit (30)
 - Warning: they were close to danger!

Group 2



- Stern warning (*The Unpardonable Sin*)
 - All sins shall be forgiven *when men repent* (1:15; 2:17; cf. 1 John 1:9)
 - *Unpardonable* because *unrepentant*
 - Continual rejection of & hardening to the Holy Spirit's call to repentance

C.E.B. Cranfield



“It is a matter of great importance pastorally that we can say with absolute confidence to anyone who is overwhelmed by the fear that he has committed this sin, that the fact that he is so troubled is itself a sure proof that he has not committed it.”

Group 1



- Response A: 'Do the will of God'
 - "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You."
 - "Excuse me..."
 - "Behold My mother and My brothers!"
 - "Observe and apprehend..."

Group 1



- “For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”
 - God’s family goes beyond blood ties
 - Jesus did only what the Father willed (Matt. 26:39; John 5:30; 6:38)
 - To show His love (John 15:31)

The Will of God



- John 4:31-38

- “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.”
(34)

The Will of God



- Rom. 12:2
 - The more we renew our minds with God's truth, the more we will be able to discern His will
 - Cf. Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:9-12

The Will of God



- 1 Thess. 4:1-3a
 - God's will is expressed thru His commands which are to guide our conduct (our *walk*) as we seek to please Him and become like Him

The Will of God



- Connected: *love, fear, obedience, fellowship*
- “Love is not merely a matter of feeling; it is the action of doing the will of God.”
(Wycliffe Bible Commentary)

Summary



- Both groups were judging by the wrong standard
 - The *will* or *glory* of God?
 - Jesus' mission/purpose? (1:14-15, 38)
- Both groups were working against God



So What?

- How well do you know the will of God?
- Are you actively pursuing mind-renewal, in order to know and do God's will?
- Is God's will more important to you than earthly or physical needs?
 - ...than what others will say about you?

Communion



- What does this tell us about communion with God?

**“Behold My mother and My brothers!
For whoever does the will of God,
he is My brother and sister and mother.”**