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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“FRIENDS, FOES, AND FAMILY”**

**Mark 3:20-35**

***Mark 3:20 "And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread."***

Mark writes of three powerful incidents of opposition to Jesus’s ministry. #1 Opposition from His friends who thought he was out of his mind. #2 Opposition from scribes who thought he was demon possessed. #3 Opposition from His family who wants His immediate attention. Jesus’ popular appeal continues unabated. The magnitude of the ministry was such and the needs of the people were so great that Jesus would not stop to eat or to rest His body. This type of involuntary fasting is what I call “Ministry fasting.” The fast was unintentional but the immediate ministry made it necessary.

***Proverbs 23:12 “Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.”***

***Mark 3:21 "And when his friends heard [of it], they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself."***

These were well-meaning family and friends. They believed because Jesus was working so very hard and not taking time for eating, that He had driven Himself too far and was not thinking right. They thought he was mentally unstable and tried to force Him to rest. All true ministers know this feeling, as well. Well-meaning family and friends will get concerned about you and try to stop you from doing something that you know you must do. God will fill you with all the strength you need to fulfill the job He has chosen for you to do. The enemies of the work are many times close friends and family. Just as Jesus went on without their approval, that is what you must do, too.

***1 Corinthians 9:16-17***

***16For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!***

***17For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.***

***18What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.***

***19For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.***

***Mark 3:22 "And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils."***

These Jerusalem scribes make a long journey to evaluate Jesus’ ministry. Possibly they had been invited by the Capernaum scribes to come. Through observation and evaluation, they realized that Jesus was able to cast out demons, and they were not. They were grasping for some kind of answer why He was able to cast out demons. They did not understand it, so they criticized. They even accused Jesus of being of the devil. Beelzebub is the prince of devils.

***Mark 2:6-12***

***6But there was certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,***

***7Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?***

***8And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?***

***9Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?***

***10But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)***

***11I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.***

***12And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.***

***2 Kings 1:2 “And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease.”***

***Mark 3:23 "And he called them [unto him], and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan?"***

Even though they were criticizing Jesus, they still came when He told them to. This speaking in parables was so only His followers would understand what He was saying. Not only how can Satan cast out Satan, but why would Satan cast out Satan? Notice that Jesus did not deny that Satan existed. He just said that Satan and Jesus were on opposite sides.

***Mark 3:24 "And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand."***

***Mark 3:25 "And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand."***

This was all saying the very same thing. Divide and conquer is just a simple way of saying this. The kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan are opposite. If Satan started throwing his own evil spirits out of his victims, they would no longer be victims. We can easily see that even Satan would not be so dumb. This house divided is along the same line, but we see it so much in our society today. If mother and dad are not in agreement, they are headed for divorce and the tearing up of the home. Mother and dad should stand as one united, and then they two could withstand the onslaught of the devil. One can put a thousand to flight and two together can put ten thousand to flight. You see, together we stand; divided, we fall.

***Deuteronomy 32:30 "How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?"***

***Mark 3:26 "And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end."***

This is kind of like committing suicide. If he is against himself, who is for him? This was kind of like committing suicide. If He was against Himself, who was for Him?

***Mark 3:27 "No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house."***

In this parable, Jesus told us that if we are to successfully defeat Satan, we must bind him before we come against him. Tie him up with the name of Jesus and the blood of Jesus and render the demon helpless before you throw him out. The two things that Satan is the most afraid of are the name of Jesus and the blood of Jesus. This is what defeated him at the cross. It is with the Spirit of God, in the name of Jesus, and through the power of His shed blood that we cast out demons.

***Mark 3:28-29***

 ***28 "Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme:"***

***29 "But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:"***

Many people believe that they have already sinned this unforgivable sin against the Holy Ghost. Some believe because of the place this is located in the Scriptures that these scribes and Pharisees committed this sin when they said that the miracles Jesus was doing was from Satan. There are others who believe to deny that the baptism of the Holy Ghost is for our day is an unforgivable sin. Verse 28 is true when it says ALL sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men. That is a separate statement from verse 29. When we reject Jesus Christ as our Saviour and die in that state, we have totally rejected the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost). This total rejection of Jesus and the Holy Ghost with full knowledge of who Jesus is, is what this blasphemy is.

***John 3:17***

***17For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.***

***18He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.***

***19And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.***

***20For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.***

***Hebrews 6:4-6***

***4For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,***

***5And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,***

***6If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.***

***Romans 1:28***

***28And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;***

***Jude 1:4***

***4For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.***

As long as there is breath in your body, and you use that breath to ask Jesus to forgive you and send the Holy Ghost, He will. We are all in danger of eternal damnation until we repent and receive Jesus in our hearts. Sin is not our problem, Jesus died for our sin (past, present, and future). Un-confessed sin is our problem.

***1 John 2:1***

***1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:***

***2And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.***

***Mark 3:30 "Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit."***

These men had totally rejected Jesus and unless they repented, this will be their fate. Even Paul said these terrible things for a time, until he met Jesus on the road to Damascus.

***Mark 3:31-35 "There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him."***

***31 And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee."***

***32 "And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren?"***

***33 "And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!"***

***34 "For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."***

We see this whole scene was set up so that Jesus might teach us about the family of God. All believers in Jesus Christ are sisters and brothers in the family of God. Jesus is the only begotten Son of the Father, but we also are children of the Father through adoption. We have been grafted into the tree. Jesus is our elder brother. We are members of the family because of our faith in Jesus Christ. We have been purchased with a price and have been presented to the Father by Jesus Christ our Saviour.

***Romans 8:14-17***

***14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."***

***15 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."***

***16 "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"***

***17 "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together."***

Our family, through blood line here on this earth, is what Mary and Jesus' half-brothers were to Him. Jesus was explaining that the eternal family (your sisters and brothers in Christ) is the true family. The family of God.

**QUESTIONS**

1. There was such a multitude they could not so much as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Why did Jesus' friends try to lay hold on Him?
3. Who did the scribes that came from Jerusalem say He had?
4. What question did Jesus ask them when He called them to Him?
5. Why did He speak in parables?
6. What happens if a kingdom is divided against itself?
7. What would happen to Satan if he were divided?
8. How is the only way a man can enter into a strong man's house?
9. What are the two things we, Christians, must use to come against Satan and his demons?
10. In verse 28, which sins will be forgiven?
11. In verse 29, what is the exception?
12. Who came to see Jesus and called for Him to come outside to see them?
13. What question did Jesus ask the people concerning this?
14. Who is the family of God made up of?
15. What was the purpose in Jesus' mother and brethren coming to see Him?
16. In Romans 8:14, we read that who are the sons of God?
17. What do we call the Father when we have been adopted?
18. Verse 17 of Romans, chapter 8 tells us that we are joint \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_with Jesus.