

Sunday, June 6, 2021
2 Pentecost, Year B

Mark 3:19-35 (NRSV)

Then Jesus went home; ²⁰ and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.

²¹ When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." ²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." ²³ And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come.

²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. ²⁸ "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"-- ³⁰ for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit." ³¹ Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." ³³ And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

OPEN

- What crazy stunt or notorious behavior from your high school days are your classmates likely to remember about you?
- What is one "pet peeve" your parents or siblings have against you?

DIG

- Why was Jesus' family worried about him? What types of conversation must they have had before deciding to get him?
- What is the significance of where these Pharisees were from? What tensions might these uneducated people feel when they hear what these respected, educated leaders say about Jesus?
- How do Jesus' parables answer the charge? How do they relate to verse 29?
- What did the crowd expect in verses 31-32? What did Jesus say is the basis for a family relationship with him? Is doing God's will an action or a belief (see Lk 6:46, Jn 6:29)

REFLECT

- How can you tell if a person's mistaken ideas about Jesus stem from misunderstanding or a hard heart?
- How has Jesus plundered Satan's kingdom in your life? What would be true of a kingdom where the king viewed his subjects as his brothers and sisters? How does that reflect Jesus relationship with you?
- Of the responses to Jesus in this chapter (3:6, 8,21,22, 34-35), which best describes your relationship to him now? Why?