

April 30th, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 15)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Pastor Jeff shared this quote by C.S. Lewis – *“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [that is, Christ]: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.... You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”*

Interact with this quote. What is He trying to say? Is what he says true?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 3:20-21. Many of Jesus’ family members were starting to think He had gone crazy. Verse 21 says, “He is out of His mind!” **Read John 7:1-5.** The Scriptures even say that Jesus’ own brothers didn’t even believe in who He really was! The same brothers that lived, slept, ate with Jesus for nearly 30 years in the same house didn’t know who He truly was at this point. How does this passage show you who you believe Jesus claims to be is important to your faith?

Belief is based on information.

Faith is based on application of information.

Hebrews 11:1 – “Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Question 2: Read Mark 3:22-27. In the next verses Jesus is being called possessed by Satan himself! His antagonists are claiming that His power is derived from Satan. Jesus addresses this claim by using two illustrations: (1) a house being divided (v.24-26), (2) Satan being bound before his sphere of power can be challenged (v.27). Why do you think the Scribes and Pharisees wanted to acknowledge Jesus’ power, but claim it was evil? How can you apply this principle in your own life? What are the dangers of doing this?

Question 3: Read Mark 3:28-30. Jesus teaches something very important in these verses – the unpardonable sin. Plainly, it is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. If a person persistently attributes to Satan what is accomplished by the power of God, a willful and decisive judgement that the Spirit’s testimony about Jesus is of Satan, it is

unforgiveable (v.29). How do you think this should be applied to the life of a Christ follower? Why is this important to know?

Question 4: Read Romans 10:9 and John 20:27-28. Read those verses and answer this question: what do you believe about who Jesus is?

Taking it Home

Reflect and apply this questions to your life:

- How am I becoming more like Jesus through forgiveness?
 - o Matthew 18:21-22
 - o Ephesians 4:32

- How am I behaving like Jesus through following Him?
 - o Mark 3:35
 - o Matthew 12:30

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?