

Don't Cross the Line

Mark 3:20-30

Is there a sin that God cannot forgive? If so, have we crossed that line through our opinions, attitudes, and responses to Jesus?

Jesus' family thought he was crazy – 3:20-21

Jesus' family comes to take him away. They think he is a mentally unbalanced religious fanatic.

God's servants are often misunderstood by their contemporaries, and especially by their families.

The scribes thought Jesus was evil – 3:22-30

Jesus' ministry came to the attention of the "establishment" in Jerusalem. A delegation of scribes comes from Jerusalem to investigate Jesus. They charge him with being in league with the devil.

Jesus summoned his accusers and answered their charges in parables.

Satan is the strong man. His house is the realm of sin, sickness, demon possession, and death. His possessions are people who are enslaved by one of these things, and his demons are his agents to carry out his plans. No one can enter his realm and carry off his possessions without first binding the strong man.

At his temptation and through his exorcisms, Jesus demonstrated that he is the Stronger One, empowered by the Holy Spirit. His mission is to confront and overpower Satan, not cooperate with him, and to deliver those enslaved to him.

In light of these charges, Jesus issued a strong warning. All sins and derogatory words against God can be forgiven except one, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. It is expressed in an attitude of willful unbelief and defiant hostility towards God.

Don't be confused about Jesus. He is the Son of God who defeated Satan and has the authority to forgive sins.