



## Message Discussion Guide Week of March 17, 2024

**Message:** Power Surge, Part 8: A House Divided

**Key Scriptures:** [Mark 3:20-35](#)

**Preacher:** Tom Parkinson

### Message Highlights:

Jesus' family experienced confusion, anxiety, and heartache at the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

- They heard reports of his miracles, but they also heard reports of his opposition to the Pharisees and that some in the religious establishment wanted him dead.
- When they hear he is continuing his ministry undeterred, they think he's gone mad. They go to get him and bring him home before he things get worse.

But they do get worse. Some Teachers of the Law arrive from Jerusalem and accuse Jesus of acting with the authority of Satan, not the authority of God.

- Jesus respond by telling them that is illogical. Why would Satan cast our the demons that do his bidding.
- Jesus has not come to do the work of Satan, he has come to besiege Satan. Jesus has entered Satan's house, bound him up, and is freeing all those who have been captured by his demonic powers.

Jesus cautions the teachers of the law that they are flirting with the unforgiveable sin – blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

- It occurs when you look in the face of the Son of God and call him the son of Satan.
- It is the defiant, willful, rejection of the work of the Holy Spirit.
- God's Son, the Messiah, stands before them and performs many miracles as a sign of his authority...and they accuse him of being from Satan.

When Jesus family arrives, they call for Jesus to come. Jesus declares that his true family are those who do the will of God.

- This is not Jesus rejecting his family – his family members go on to become believers.
- Jesus is declaring that he is forming a new family – one held together not by common blood, but by common allegiance to God's will.

The church is a family. We welcome people of every age, race, and nation, and we unite to do one thing – the will of God. We persevere, even when the world misunderstands us.

### Discussion Questions:

- 1.) Have you ever had an experience where you felt misunderstood by your own family? What caused it? How did you work through it?
- 2.) We typically think of our families as the top priority in our lives. What do we do when the expectations of our family members do not align with God's expectations of us? How can we honor our families in situations where they don't agree with our beliefs or choices?
- 3.) [Read Mark 3:20-35](#)
  - a. Why does Jesus' family think he has gone mad?
  - b. What prompts the teachers of the law to accuse Jesus of being aligned with Satan?
  - c. How does Jesus rebuff their accusations?
  - d. What is the meaning of the parable of the strong man in verse 27?
  - e. What is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit? Why is it the only unforgiveable sin?
  - f. What does Jesus respond to his family's arrival in the way that he does?
- 4.) Do you think it is possible for us to commit an unforgiveable sin? Is it possible for us to blaspheme the Holy Spirit today?
- 5.) What does it mean when we say that the church is a family? What is it that binds the church together as one family of God?
- 6.) What is your primary takeaway from this message?