

Mark 3:20-35

A House Divided

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- My Favorite President
- 1858 Lincoln was running to represent Illinois in the U.S. senate.
- **The Illinois Republican Convention was held in Springfield and at 5pm, Abraham Lincoln got the nomination.**
- He would be running against the Democrat Steven Douglas and there would be 7 Lincoln-Douglas debates including one in Ottawa, IL and another in Galesburg.
- The nomination happened at 5pm and then they broke for dinner and reassembled for speeches afterward.
- **Lincoln would be the main speaker and he would give one of his most famous speeches.**
- Unfortunately, the speech was probably instrumental in his losing the election to Douglas.
- The issue plaguing the nation was slavery. It was dividing the nation and the U.S. supreme court had just ruled in favor of freedom to have slaves in the Dredd-Scott ruling.

• **So Lincoln says this:** *"A house divided against itself cannot stand."*

I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved -- I do not expect the house to fall -- but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery, will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become alike lawful in all the States, old as well as new -- North as well as South.

- **Here's the problem. Most everyone believed that the answer moving forward was to compromise. Even many in his own party.**
- **That was Stephen Douglas' plan. Work out a compromise. But NOT LINCOLN.**
- **For Lincoln, Slavery was EVIL. And how can a nation move in the direction of EVIL (Slavery) and GOOD (abolishing slavery) at the same time?**
- You might think, wow! That "house divided against itself" is a brilliant line, and you'd be right. **But actually, Lincoln was quoting someone else.**
- **He is quoting Jesus from Mark chapter 3.** People recognized that line from scripture. **Lincoln was calling on the word of God in his speech.** Pretty heavy handed, huh?

²⁰ Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. ²¹ When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

• **Liar, Lunatic or Lord (C.S. Lewis)**

- Jesus is claiming to be God. (does He believe He is God?)
- Liar vs. Lunatic – Jesus family thinks Jesus is Lunatic.
- He's not eating. Mom's go nuts when their kids don't eat.

²² And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

- Teachers of the law can call Jesus a liar and a lunatic if they want, but they have to explain the healings.

- Their argument is that Jesus isn't healing as God, but that He's colluding with Satan.
- Obviously, these are supernatural healings. But the supernatural power He is using is the Prince of demons or Satan.

²³ So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables:

- Parable is a concrete illustration thrown alongside a truth to help explain it. *"How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶ And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come."*

• **Jesus makes their argument sound stupid with clear logic.**

- Satan wants to control people. Satan wouldn't come out of someone he didn't have to come out of.

• **Demons have to be forcibly cast out because they want to be there!!!**

²⁷ In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house.

- **Jesus is comparing the devil to the strong man.** If you go into a strong man's house to rob him, he doesn't just start putting things in a sack for you to take because He doesn't want you to take his stuff.

• **Jesus can cast out demons because he has the power to bind the Devil.**

• **Don't think Satan is currently bound.** Pre-mil. Will be bound in Rev. 20:1-3.

Rev. 20:1 *Then I saw an angel descending from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the abyss and a huge chain. ² He seized the dragon—the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan—and tied him up for a thousand years. ³ The angel then threw him into the abyss and locked and sealed it so that he could not deceive the nations until the one thousand years were finished. (After these things he must be released for a brief period of time.)*

The Unforgivable Sin is settled rejection of the witness of the Holy Spirit about Jesus.

²⁸ Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin. ³⁰ He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

• **The teachers of the law have a settled rejection, regardless of evidence, to the witness the Holy Spirit says about Jesus.**

³¹ Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." ³³ "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked. ³⁴ Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

- Those who should be first to accept that Jesus is not a liar or lunatic, but Lord. Teachers of the law and Mary and Jesus' brothers.

• **The family doesn't understand the claims and miracles yet. He wasn't claiming to be God and healing people when He was back in Nazareth!**

- Jesus speaking to his disciples says, you are my family.

- The bond of Christ is stronger than flesh and blood.

- God through the Holy Spirit tells us that Jesus is Lord. Its important that we listen to the Holy Spirit be in agreement. **WHO DO YOU SAY THAT JESUS IS? DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HIM? COME BACK. EXPLORE. SEEK THE TRUTH.**