

Daily Bible Study

“Alliance or Conquest & The Unpardonable Sin”

(Part 1)

Mark 3:22-30

December 6-12, 2009

THE LORD’S DAY – We continue this week in our study of The Gospel According to Mark and we take for our text, **Mark 3:22-30**. We are looking at Part-1 of a lesson entitled “*Alliance or Conquest & The Unpardonable Sin*”. This entire section of **Mark 3** which we have been studying the past several weeks is tied together in its thoughts and themes. The flow of the story is tied together and the truths expressed in it are interwoven together as we will continue to see through the end of this chapter. Last time we saw that Jesus *own people* came on the scene in order to *lay hold* of Jesus for they thought He was *out of His mind*. The power and work of Jesus was undeniable but even His *own people* who as of yet had not believed in Him were attempting to bring Him to His senses if you will. But not only were His friends making things difficult for Him so were His foes (Scribes and Pharisees). As we will see in our text Jesus was not merely up against physical opposition and opponents but also against a spiritual foe; namely, Satan (*Beelzebub*) himself. In this text Jesus declares His power over Satan and warns that there is an eternal sin, one that can never be forgiven, and that is blasphemy against The Holy Spirit. We will explain this in the next two weeks. Read **Mark 3:22-30**.

The Word Applied & A Suggestion for Prayer: Prayerfully read the text then ask God to both teach you from His Word this week and then give you opportunity to practice what you learn.

MONDAY – Verse 22 begins by telling us that some *scribes (Pharisees: Matthew 12:24)* had *come down* to get involved in this conversation with Christ. We are informed in the parallel account from **Matthew 12:22-23** that in the midst of this great multitude surrounding Jesus was a demon possessed man who was blind and mute and Jesus healed him. According to Matthews account this prompted “*all the multitude*” to say, “*Could this be the Son of David*”? Tragically, the *scribes* as best they could were not going to allow the people to be amazed and entertain this Messianic notion concerning Jesus. Here we see demonstrated what we called the *Resistance* from last week’s sermon. The *scribes* go on to explain that Jesus did these miraculous things because “*He has Beelzebub*”, and “*By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons*”. It is obvious who they were referencing with this statement as Jesus uses the name *Satan* in answering their charge. This wicked and evil charge against Jesus which fueled the religious leaders in their crusade against Christ was the result of envy as were told in **Matthew 27:18**. They felt they were losing their following and their pride would not let that be the case. The main problem is that they were unbelieving and rejecters of Jesus and His gospel message of *repent and believe*. This attitude is the complete opposite of John the Baptist who was a believer in Jesus. Notice the difference in attitude between these *scribes* and John from **John 3:26-30**.

The Word Applied: What is your attitude concerning Jesus? Are you offended at Christ when you are not the one receiving attention and recognition from people?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help my attitude to be “He must increase but I must decrease”.

TUESDAY – The scribes were not merely saying Jesus was influenced by Satan but rather “*He has Beelzebub*”. The Greek word translated *has* is the word echo which speaks to a possession, holding and wearing of something. They were accusing Jesus of having *Beelzebub* in His very soul, being possessed by Satan himself. They were charging Jesus of having and being in alliance with Satan. Jesus replies to this charge in the following verse. It is interesting and important to note that these slanderers were all going behind Christ’s back with their charges. In all three of the Scriptural accounts of this charge we find it is given in the third person. Notice that they are not saying “you” to Jesus face rather they are saying “*He*” speaking of Jesus behind His back. This is why we find in **verse 23** that Jesus summons the slanderers to *Himself*. Just as He called His disciples to Himself by Sovereign authority

(**verse 13**) He does the same to these scribes as He called them into His presence. He gives them opportunity in a face to face confrontation to hear Him and refute His explanation which of course they do not, because they cannot answer His refutation. How clear is Scripture in speaking of the fact we are to go to the one with which we have offense and speak with them rather than slander them behind their back in gossip and malice. Jesus practiced what He preached in Sacred Scripture as He brings these men before Him and addresses their accusations with Divine truth. Read **Matthew 18:15, James 5:19-20**.

The Word Applied: How do you respond to accusations, false and true? What should you do?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me be humble and have the courage to ask forgiveness when I need to as well as to stand unwavering under and in Your truth when necessary.

WEDNESDAY – In response to these accusations Jesus shows them to be ridiculous by giving His accusers an explanation through *parables* in **verses 23-27**. Here Jesus gives them an illustrative story or an illustrative comparison in His answer. He begins by saying simply, “*How can Satan cast out Satan?*” How unreasonable, not to mention blasphemous which will be addressed later, is to suppose I am in alliance with Satan? Alliances are meant to unite two or more parties not divide them. Jesus was out delivering people from the power of Satan and to assume they were working together makes absolutely no sense at face value. Most Kingdoms fall from internal division and Christ makes it clear that if Satan was fighting against himself, his Kingdom was divided and *cannot stand*. It is true as the old saying goes that “there is no honor among thieves”. In a sense, Satan’s Kingdom is in division as all of its members are selfish, self centered God rebelling thieves who would turn on one another in a second to better their own interests. Their unity if you will comes from their joint hatred toward God. But Jesus is saying He is obviously not in league with Satan because there is no manner in which they are in agreement as God’s Kingdom is diametrically opposed to Satan’s in the obvious fact that Satan has come to *kill and destroy* and Jesus is come to save and deliver from sin and its bondage and affects. This truth is summed up in one verse by Jesus in **John 10:10**.

*The Word Applied: Are your desires and the longings of your heart in line with God’s or Satan’s Kingdom according to **John 10:10**?*

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to love, cherish, and live in line with Your heart.

THURSDAY – After Jesus has refuted the *scribe’s* contention that He is in alliance with Satan He proceeds in **verse 27** to explain His conquest over the demon hosts and their leader, Satan himself. Jesus gives an illustration concerning His victory over Satan by saying, “*No one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man...*” Here Satan is referred to as the *strong man*. Only someone stronger than Satan is able to *enter his house, bind him, and plunder his goods*. This is a scene most of us are probably familiar with having seen a movie where an intruder breaks into a home and ties up the homeowner in order to rob the house. Although Jesus is not breaking the law in any way this illustrates precisely what He did. Jesus has come and He has entered *the strong mans house* and is doing what He pleases through the power of The Holy Spirit. Starting in His incarnation Jesus has proved victorious over Satan in His wilderness temptation and currently by His ministry of delivering people from demon possession as well as bringing them salvation through the gospel. Remember, as we have previously seen in Mark Jesus cast out demons, worked miracles and proclaimed the gospel *as one having authority*. We need to remember that Satan is indeed a strong man who must be fought with the sword of The Spirit and in His power not ours. Scripture is clear demonstrating to us the great power of Satan and we even find Michael the archangel respecting this fact as he tells Satan, “*The Lord rebuke you*” in **Jude 9**. Read **Matthew 6:13, Luke 13:16, 1 Peter 5:8**.

The Word Applied: Don’t be naïve and think you can fight the enemy’s attacks in your own strength. It is God who has power over the “evil one” (Matthew 6:13).

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, I praise You for Your almighty power over even Satan Himself.

FRIDAY – Yesterday, we saw a Scripture in **Luke 13:16** a woman who for 18 years had been *bound* by Satan with a *spirit of infirmity* which crippled her and kept her bent over. The Greek word translated *bound* there is the word *deo* which means literally “to bind tie, fasten” and metaphorically a few ways; namely “to be bound to one, a wife, a husband” and also “to forbid, prohibit”. This word is used in various places in Scripture such as **John 18:24**, **Romans 7:2**, and **Revelation 20:2**. Jesus uses the word here to speak of His restraining and prohibiting power over *the strong man*. Only if Jesus is able to restrain this mighty enemy will He be able to *plunder his goods* (people who are under his control). We are told plainly in Scripture that unbelievers are *children of the devil* (**John 8:44**) and *the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one* (**1 John 5:19**). Yet, Jesus has come and as the stronger man, the supreme and sovereign God of the universe, He conquers Satan and diarpazo (to plunder, spoil) his goods by saving souls who were under this mighty enemies control. Read **Isaiah 49:24-26, 61:1**.

*The Word Applied: **Ephesians 6:10-13** tells us about spiritual warfare against the enemy. Notice from these verses whose power and what protection we have been given and how we are to fight this battle.*

Suggestion for Prayer: God, help me be strong against the enemy in the power of YOUR might.

SATURDAY – We have mentioned Jesus victory in resisting Satan’s temptation in the wilderness as well as His power over demons and sickness all of which we have seen from Mark’s gospel record. Jesus was at the time He spoke in our text literally *plundering the strong man’s house*. But Scripture tells us that this decisive victory and death blow to and over Satan was accomplished on the cross and in the resurrection, ascension, and coronation of our Lord Jesus. In **Colossians 2:14-15** The Apostle Paul states that in the cross Jesus *made a public spectacle* over *principalities and powers* and that it was there that He *disarmed* them. It is in the power of The Holy Spirit that Jesus conquered sin, Satan, death and hell. To this point of the Holy Spirit is precisely where Jesus is taking the conversation in our text to as He discusses the blasphemy of the Spirit or The Unpardonable Sin which we will cover next week. For today, finish this week by reading these verses speaking of the conquering work of Jesus over Satan. Beloved, may your souls be encouraged as you are reminded we fight from a place of victory. Read **Genesis 3:15, John 12:31, Romans 16:20, Hebrews 2:14, 1 John 3:8, 4:4, Revelation 12:7-9, 20:1-3**.

The Word Applied: How thankful we should be to Jesus for rescuing our souls from the kingdom of darkness. Is your life a living monument of thanks to God for such deliverance?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Thank You for Your incredible plan of salvation and Your almighty power over all Your enemies. Help me live in the Power of Your might and not my own. All praise, honor and glory to You Holy Trinity; for Yours is the Power forever and ever, Amen.