



The gospel according to

# MARK

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# Mark's purposes in writing this Gospel:

1

To develop who Jesus is.

2

To show how Jesus is the promised Messiah.

3

To show what it looks like to be a faithful disciple of Jesus.

Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

"Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

Mark 3v20-30 (ESV)

You can be close to Jesus and misjudge who he really is  
(vs 20-21).

Both Jesus' family and the religious elite grossly misunderstood who Jesus was and what he came to do.



Our misjudgments of Jesus can lead us away from acceptance of who he is (vs 22).

Two Accusations:

Jesus is possessed by Beelzebul.

Jesus is using demonic power to heal.

A hardened heart can lead to irrational logic.

Our misjudgments of Jesus do not change who he is (vs 23-27).

Jesus is essentially saying...

if what you say is true there exists the impossible circumstance that Satan is destroying his own realm. For it is self-evident that a kingdom divided against itself cannot be established. If your accusation is factual, then Satan has become divided in his allegiance - his own realm is crumbling from the inside-out. This should mean that he is powerless. **YET THIS IS CLEARLY NOT THE CASE.** Satan remains strong, and this fact exposes the fallacy of your accusation against me!

Satan is not destroying his own kingdom from within, rather his kingdom is being overthrown by Jesus! Jesus' healing power proves he is the "stronger" man, plundering the kingdom of evil.

There is always forgiveness for the ways in which we misjudge and miss the real Jesus (vs 28-30).

**All** sins are forgiven, even whatever blasphemies are spoken.



“If we confess our sin he is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1v9

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is an expression of defiant hostility toward God (active or passive) leading to a settled condition of the heart refusing to follow Jesus and resisting his Spirit.

"The unforgivable sin is refusing the calling of the Spirit. Anyone who feels the pull of the Spirit and refuses it remains in unforgiveness. However, if they respond then every sin, no matter how awful, is forgivable. That is Jesus' main point; every sin can be forgiven. But if you refuse the way of forgiveness there is no possibility of being forgiven. People do refuse the Spirit today."

- Gerry Breshears

The only way to miss out on forgiveness is to reject the person (Jesus) who has the power to forgive all sin.

Three life-implications:

1

We are in a battle.

"From Mark's point of view, the world is a battleground between good and evil, between Satan and God, between humans and demons. If the world is to be freed from being in thrall to Satan, it must be liberated. The strong man must be overthrown by a stronger one. In a world that is dark and dangerous, it is not a surprise that even the disciples don't understand. It requires radical change for a person in such a world to really know and be what God wants a person to know and be. It requires revelation breaking into a realm of ignorance and the ignoring of God. It requires grace that not merely informs but also transforms a person."

- Ben Witherington III

Three life-implications:

1

We are in a battle.

2

You can be close to Jesus and miss who he really is and his redemptive power.

Knowing who Jesus is and why he had to die is a **gift** from God.



Three life-implications:

1

We are in a battle.

2

You can be close to Jesus and miss who he really is and his redemptive power.

3

Come to Jesus for forgiveness.