

# Mark 3

Monday, April 7, 2025 8:00 AM

## **AN ACCUSATION TO DISCREDIT**

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.” (**Mark 3:22**)

The scribes who came from Jerusalem were an official delegation of “Experts” coming to assess the ministry of Jesus. They accused Jesus of being possessed not by a demon, but by Satan. They wouldn’t say that Jesus was possessed by just any demon but by Satan himself. This was “an involuntary compliment to the exceptional power and greatness of Jesus.” (**Expositor’s**)

The scribes who came down from Jerusalem viciously and cynically attacked Jesus. Because of their official position, this was the first step in the plot to destroy Jesus referred to in **Mark 3:6**. Before they could destroy Him, they had to first discredit Jesus in the eyes of the multitude.

This wasn’t the first time Jesus received accusations, but how did Jesus respond? First, He called them to Himself and gave them a parable. He asks a question. “How can Satan cast out Satan?” Jesus said this to show that Satan would not work against himself. “No one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods”. With this, Jesus answered the charge that He was in league with the Devil. He said, “I’m not under Satan. Instead, I am proving that I am stronger than he is.”

“Unless he first binds the strong man”. In this parable, Satan is the strong man who guards what belongs to him. Jesus’ ministry was defeating this strong man, both in the case of casting the demon out of the man who was mute and in the broader sense.

“Then he will plunder his house”. Jesus looked at every life delivered from Satan’s domination and said, “I’m plundering the kingdom of Satan one life at a time.” There is nothing in our life that must stay under Satan’s domination. The one who binds the strong man and will plunder his house is our risen Lord.

Then Jesus warns the religious leaders about the unforgivable sin. This blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is serious indeed. The person guilty of this sin is subject to eternal condemnation. In other Gospels (such as in **Luke 12:10**), this sin is described as “unforgivable.” Many people wonder what the blasphemy of the

Holy Spirit is, and some wonder if they have committed this sin. The warning of Jesus makes us recognize the terrible danger of the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit and our need to avoid this sin at all costs.

These religious leaders were in danger of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit because they looked at the perfectly good and wonderful work of God in Jesus and officially pronounced it the evil of Satan.

“Notice that these men had not yet committed the unpardonable sin... Otherwise, Jesus would never have warned them. By his own words, there is no use warning a man who has committed the unpardonable sin; he is beyond help.” **(Stedman)**

These words were never intended to torment anxious souls honestly desiring to know Christ, but they stand out as a blazing warning of the danger of persisting in the rejection of the Spirit’s testimony of Christ until the seared conscience no longer responds to the gospel message.” (Ironsides)

The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven — not because it is a sin “too big” for God to forgive, but because it is an attitude of heart that cares nothing for God’s forgiveness. It never has forgiveness because it never wants forgiveness in God’s way. **(Guzik)**

Lord, thank you that as your child the enemy is not too big for You. Thank you for the precious Holy Spirit that convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment and that He will testify of You.