



Sermon Questions

Date: *October 2, 2022* | Scripture: *Mark 3:13-35*

1. Read the passages from the sermon together. What do you find convicting? What do you find challenging? What do you find confusing?
2. Already in chapter 3 of Mark's Gospel, Jesus has become a polarizing figure. People either love or hate him. In the face of that, Jesus is not making his message more digestible for a broader audience. Rather, he himself is drawing sharper lines. How are you processing that sharp division between followers of Jesus and enemies of Jesus? Does it make you feel uncomfortable? Does it make sense why he's drawing those sharp lines?
3. How have you felt that division in your own life? Does your family think you are crazy for following Jesus? What do your friends and coworkers think?
4. Jesus faced rejection on the cross so that we might be accepted by the Father. God delights in forgiving us. Do you operate with the underlying belief that God is disgusted with you and not interested in forgiving you?
5. In what way does the rejection of Jesus by his earthly family differ from the rejection of Jesus by the Heavenly Father on the cross?

Inward Grace in Action (See back also)

The unforgivable sin is the source of much fear and confusion within Christian circles. Fortunately, the New Testament gives us clarity and comfort on what exactly the unforgivable sin is. Very simply, the unforgivable sin is to reject the gospel in one's heart—to call the Holy Spirit's witness about who Jesus is false. If forgiveness only comes through faith in Christ, and faith only comes through receiving the Holy Spirit, it only makes sense to say that one cannot be forgiven for rejecting the Holy Spirit.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Exodus 7:1-12
- Psalm 27
- Isaiah 51
- Mark 9:14-29
- 1 John 2:18-25
- Revelation 12:7-12

Serve: there are lots of opportunities to serve in our church family. [Click Here](#) to serve as a volunteer.

Pray for our church's many Community Groups and CG leaders and staff as we enter into CG Month. Pray this ministry continues to bless and connect our members!

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org

The encouraging news is, so long as a person is alive they have a chance of repenting of their unbelief. Paul was one of those religious leaders who denied Christ—who effectively blasphemed against the Holy Spirit. However, upon the miraculous call of Christ on the road to Damascus, Paul repented of his sin and became the most ardent evangelist in the world. In our passage this week, Jesus’ own family rejected him. However, we know that his family later came around to recognize who Jesus was. His brothers James and Jude became important leaders in the early church, leaving behind their sinful rejection of Jesus and embracing the testimony of the Holy Spirit as true.

- In what ways are you tempted to doubt or deny the gospel? Where do you struggle with disbelief?
- Who are people in your life who have rejected Jesus as Lord? Who are you tempted to think of as “too far gone” to come to Christ?

Action: Spend some time in prayer repenting of the sin of unbelief and asking the Holy Spirit to help you in your unbelief. Pray also for the people in your life who have rejected Jesus, that the Holy Spirit might soften their hearts and illuminate their minds to the truth of the gospel.