

Jesus Faces Ministry Challenges, Mark 3:20-35

Mighty Messiah, Exemplary Servant Series



Intro: The Cleveland Balloonfest of 1986.. when a launch starts well, with good intentions, yet unideal things occur

Even when our spiritual lives and ministries have launched well, we can expect challenges!

I. Three Challenges Jesus Experiences as His Ministry Launches (and You Will Likely Face Them to)

- a. There is an incredible busyness around him, that challenges even his basic needs (vs. 20)
- b. Jesus' family and friends are embarrassed by his claims (vs. 21)
- c. The established religious community is discouraging and discrediting (vs. 22-30)

II. Encouragement From Today's Passage, as You Face Spiritual + Ministry Challenges

- a. If Jesus' family and friends are embarrassed by his claims, you can expect opposition (when you live out his claims)
- b. Jesus, the "strong man"
 - a declaration of future victory
 - a model for pursuing alignment in ministry
- c. While living for Jesus sometimes costs us valued partnerships, it also creates new ones (vs. 34)

Conclusion and Summary Statement: Today's passage (Mark 3:20-35) reminds us that even Jesus' ministry was challenged, while offering encouragement and direction as we face the same

Group and Individual Study Questions

Mark 3:20-35

1. What seems to be the problem or accusation that Jesus' friends and family have towards him, in this passage?

2. If Jesus' friends and family sometimes didn't believe and support his claims, is it likely that we will experience doubt and resistance from family and friends as we live out the claims of Jesus?

Have you already experienced this, and if so, how did you process and react to it?

3. What is the good news we learn about at least some of Jesus' strained family relationships, in Acts 1:14 and Galatians 1:19? What hope might this offer us for relationships we might find strained?

4. What do "the scribes who came down from Jerusalem" accuse Jesus of, in this passage?

5. Rephrase Jesus' response, in your own words. How does he explain that the scribe's accusation is wrong?

What does Jesus seem to warn is an especially egregious sin, in this same discussion?

6. What are encouraging things that we can take and live out, from this analogy Jesus uses regarding strength and victory? Who is the "ultimate strongman?" Who has Jesus restrained and demonstrated enduring victory over?

7. Reflect on the details that even as Jesus' ministry was launching well, he faced: busyness, conflict with loved ones, and discouraging accusations. What does this mean for us, even as we live the Christian life well?

8. Share observations or discoveries God has brought to your heart and mind, on facing these same dynamics as you seek to grow spiritually and minister to others