

**10- Sometimes Servants are Misunderstood Mark 3:20-34; 6:1-5**

The body of Christ is misunderstood at best and intentionally misrepresented at worst. Jesus, having just called His first disciples, is beginning to gather crowds to hear Him teach, preach and heal. **Mark 3:19-20 ...and they went into an house. 20 And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.**

**I- Those Closest Often Misunderstand Most:**

Jesus was busy calling His disciples and then for a moments rest went into a house. Notice how those closest to Jesus thought he had gone out of His mind. The KJV says, **Mark 3:21 And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.** There is some doubt that friends is the best word here because most translation say family.

**Mark 3:21 HCSB When His family heard this, they set out to restrain Him, because they said, "He's out of His mind." NASB says, "His own people...."** and that they said, **"He has lost His senses."**

We know from the Scriptures that it was only after Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead that His half-brothers believed on Him. **John 7:5 says For neither did his brethren believe in him.**

This being his family is also supported by the last verse in **Mark 3.** Jesus, when He was told that His mother and brothers were outside, said whosoever does the will of God is His family.

So now we see that not only do they not believe they think He has gone fruit looped and crazy. *Barnes Notes* says it was, *"delirious or deranged."* Now notice with me the record of Jesus in His hometown.

**Mark 6:1-5 And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him. 2 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. 4 But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. 5 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.** They could not get past Him being a carpenter, and that his brothers and sisters were there

**II- Rumored to be of the Devil:**

After His family come and calls Him crazy it gets even more bizarre. The religious crowd shows up from Jerusalem. **Mark 3:22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.**

They start the rumor that He was not only crazy but was of the devil. This is a tactic used by the enemy many times when someone disagrees with another, they will be tempted to question if they even are of God.

Jesus taught them a parable to show just how absurd this accusation was. **Mark 3:23-27 And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand. 26 And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end. 27 No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.**

Another key lesson to take away from this is to make sure it is not God doing it before we criticize. They were attributing the work of God to the Devil. Jesus gave a stern warning about doing this. **Mark 3:29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.**

The scribes and Pharisees could not deny His power, there was evidence of it everywhere, so they therefore tried to destroy Him with false claims. There is a lot about this that I confess that I do not understand. We see in **Matthew 12:32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.** This seems to be the eternal sin which cannot be forgiven. At a minimum it is a stern warning to be careful to not tear down what God is doing.

**III- Danger of a House Divided:**

Let's go back now to **Mark 3:25 And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.** The Bible says in **Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!** And in **Galatians 5:15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.**

I am reminded that we all have stewardships of influence in helping to develop the next generation of servants for the Lord. We must strive to have unity and to encourage and build up one another, to not make false accusations against others in the body of Christ.