



## Kingdoms In Conflict

### Key idea:

The trained religious leaders blasphemously claimed that Jesus was empowered by Satan, but Jesus showed that He had actually bound Satan and was plundering his house and kingdom to set people free and bring them into God's family.

### Key text:

Mark 3:20-30

Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. <sup>21</sup> When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." <sup>22</sup> And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons." <sup>23</sup> So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. <sup>27</sup> In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house. <sup>28</sup> I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. <sup>29</sup> But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin." <sup>30</sup> He said this because they were saying, "He has an evil spirit."

### Key points:

1. The crowds continued to grow and press around Jesus, but the opposition continues to grow, including even from His own family and from the religious leaders in Jerusalem.
2. The religious scholars from Jerusalem could not deny Jesus' power to drive out demons, so they said His power came from Satan, not God.
3. Jesus taught that a divided house or kingdom will not stand, so His power to expel demons could not have come from Satan!
4. Jesus declares that the real reason He can drive out demons is that He is stronger than Satan, has bound him, and is plundering his house!

5. Jesus warns the religious leaders that their willful, stubborn refusal to acknowledge Him, choosing to attribute His power to Satan, is dangerously close to blaspheming the Spirit of God, the most serious of sins.

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Was I surprised to see that Jesus' family thought He was out of His mind? What can I learn from this?
3. Why is it important to understand that the scribes in this story are from Jerusalem? How does that help move the story forward and prepare me for what will happen later?
4. Why do the scribes not try to discount Jesus' power to drive out demons and do miracles?
5. Does Mark give any evidence that the scribes even attempted to speak with Jesus to determine Who He was? What does this tell me about their disposition? How does this lack of research add to the story?
6. Why do the scribes attribute Jesus' power to Satan? Was I surprised to learn that the charge of sorcery and witchcraft continued within Jewish writings for centuries?
7. Why does Jesus answer the religious authorities with a "parable"? How might this help them to understand the truth and question their opposition to Him? How might it be evidence that He viewed them as hopelessly set against Him?
8. How is the mission of the Church related to Jesus' binding of Satan and plundering his house and kingdom?
9. How often do I think of Satan and his demonic forces as being active around me? When I really that he is active around me, what is my response? How can I have confidence rather than fear when considering Satan's desire to destroy?
10. Have I worried that I had blasphemed the Spirit or committed the 'unpardonable sin'? What was Jesus really teaching about this sin? How can I know that I have not committed it?
11. Who will I call or see to invite to gather with the church this week?

### **For Further Study:**

You can learn more about [spiritual warfare](#) on the BRCC teachings resource page.