

## LESSON 4



## PRINCIPLES OF JESUS' KINGDOM

*Scripture Text: Mark 3:22-35*

Today's events took place in the same locality as last week's—Capernaum. Jesus' critics are still present and active. Many people had come from all over Palestine to see, hear, and have Jesus supply their physical and spiritual needs.

The principles in today's lesson are but a few of the truths upon which the Kingdom of God is built. All through His earthly ministry Jesus was teaching more and more of these principles. Look for them as you read and study His Word. They are eternal truths. In this lesson we find that if we become divided, we become conquered.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.*

*Mark 3:35*

### Disunity Destroys

**Mark 3:22-26** Seeing Jesus' miracles and hearing His Words did not build faith in some of these critics **from Jerusalem**. Instead, they were ready to step into deeper trouble. They attributed His power over devils to His being Himself indwelt by the **prince of the devils**, Beelzebub. What a serious accusation! Jesus **called them unto him**--Jesus knew their hearts without hearing their words. **How can Satan cast out Satan?** Without thinking the matter through carefully, they had drawn a foolish conclusion. **A kingdom . . . or house . . . divided against itself . . . cannot stand . . . If Satan . . . be divided, he . . . hath an end.** To continue, a thing must have unity. All its parts must agree. All must work toward the same end. Otherwise, it will destroy itself. Any division within a kingdom is the beginning of its destruction. We see here a foundation principle of the Kingdom of God. Since it is an everlasting kingdom (2 Peter 1:11), it is a unit—all parts united and in agreement.

### Clear-Cut Opposition

**Mark 3:27** **No man can enter . . . spoil** a strong man's **goods** without first binding **the strong man**. Satan is strong. Jesus had been spoiling his goods by casting Satan's demons out of people's bodies and cleansing sin from people's hearts. This was evidence that He was directly opposed to Satan, had greater power than Satan, and had bound or taken away Satan's power in these miracles. Had He had a partnership with Satan, He could not have destroyed Satan's goods without destroying His own kingdom.

### Criticism Is Dangerous

**Mark 3:28-30** **Verily—truly—I say unto you**--Jesus thus emphasizes His Words. **All sins . . . and blasphemies** shall be forgiven when repented of—all except one. **He that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness.** (Read Matthew 12:31-37.) Jesus makes it clear. To blaspheme God the Father or Christ the Son will be forgiven. Consider this thought: When one commits blasphemy against the Father or the Son, he has the Holy Spirit to draw him to repent, making forgiveness possible. But when one commits blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, there can be no forgiveness, simply because there is none other than the Holy Spirit to draw such a one to repent. He has blasphemed the only remedy or hope for being saved. The Father draws through the work of the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead. This warning was given by Jesus because these scribes had either committed that sin or were near to doing so.

They had said that an act of Jesus done by the power of the Holy Spirit was done by the power of **the prince of the devils**. They knew better, for God is just and would not hold one guilty for an honestly mistaken opinion. This warning holds before us again our need to give earnest heed to the Word of God being delivered under the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the way one proves to God that He is being held in highest reverence. Second Timothy 2:25-26 points out the only way possible to find an escape from this terrible spiritual condition.

### True Family Relationship

**Mark 3:31-32** Jesus' mother and brothers came to see Him. He was surrounded by **the multitude** and busy teaching and helping them. His relatives sent a request to see Him. Jesus, a perfect man, felt strong human love for His family and treated them with due respect.

**Mark 3:33-35** Yet, Jesus was God as well as man. He was never to forget the all-important mission for which He was sent. He was sent to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). Lesser matters could not be allowed to interfere with it. Are we allowing our families to interfere with the work of God? **Who is my mother . . . ?** What claims did earthly connections have upon Jesus in comparison to His spiritual relationship and claims of the Kingdom of God? Looking at His followers **which sat about him**, He pointed them out as **my mother and my brethren**. They were related to Him spiritually because they were born of God, His Father. This is the greatest of all relationships. Physical relationship is a thing of this earth only, while spiritual relationship is eternal. **Whosoever shall do the will of God**—true followers, God's obedient children, saved people, members of the body of Christ—**the same is my brother . . . sister . . . mother**. Blessed relationship, a brother or sister to Christ, mother of all the spiritual offspring. Such is every member of the Church of God, united with Christ in the closest relationship.

We have heard it said, "United, we stand; divided, we fall." This certainly holds true to the family of God. We must hold fast to all foundation principles. Some of the basic ones are: (1) The church is one united whole. (2) It is at war with Satan. (3) It believes, reverences, worships, and obeys the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (4) All of its members are children of God, made so by the new birth, a miraculous work of God in the heart. Any person lacking any or all of these characteristics is not part of the family of God.

Mary was the physical mother of Jesus. She gave to Him His human life only. His divine life, His Deity, He received from God His Father. Jesus loved and respected His mother for what she was—His human mother and a godly woman. But He made it clear that a spiritual relationship to Him by the new birth is of greater value than a physical relationship. Mary had both. Is it right to lift Mary to a place of honor higher than other holy women? Is it right to worship her? Jesus did not.

### JUST A THOUGHT

**God never forgives future sins, only past ones.**