

## *Mark: The Mysterious Messiah*

Week 6: Mark 3:20-35

**Introductory Exercise.** Are all sins the same, or are there degrees of severity among sins? To support your answer, to which parts of the Bible would you point?

When Jesus returns to his home, who tries to have him seized in your translation? What difference is there between the hometown people's reaction to Jesus and the out-of-town Scribes' reaction? What does the name Beelzebul/Beelzebub mean?

What new form of speech does the gospel introduce at this point? What two examples of this form does Jesus immediately speak? What seem to be their individual points, and what connections between them do you see?

What does the Greek verb *blasphemeo* mean before Christianity gets ahold of it? What sort of offense is Jesus describing here when he describes the eternal sin? What sorts of conversations have you heard or read about this concept, and how does it seem to fit into the story that Mark is telling? How does Mark 3:30 situate this strange saying in the context of the rest of the story?

Jesus uses the approach of his mother and brothers to make a point about the loyalties that will matter in the coming kingdom. What disruption of traditional order is Jesus introducing here, and what do you think is the point of such a disruption?