

Wednesday June 2nd for the 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER: Good and gracious God, thank you for gathering us together for this time of sharing faith and fellowship. You created us out of love and for love, but we insisted on doing our will and not your will. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus, to redeem us from our sinful ways. May this time of sharing your Word draw us closer to you. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Mark 3:20-25

20* He came home.* Again [the] crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat.ⁱ

21 When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”ⁱ

22 The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,”* and “By the prince of demons he drives out demons.”^k

23 Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables, “How can Satan drive out Satan?

24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand; that is the end of him.

27 But no one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder his house.
28 Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them.¹

29 But whoever blasphemes against the holy Spirit* will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin."

30 For they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

31^m His mother and his brothers arrived. Standing outside they sent word to him and called him.

32 A crowd seated around him told him, "Your mother and your brothers* [and your sisters] are outside asking for you."

33 But he said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and [my] brothers?"

34 And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers.

35 [For] whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Notes

* [3:20–35] Within the narrative of the coming of Jesus' relatives ([Mk 3:20–21](#)) is inserted the account of the unbelieving scribes from Jerusalem who attributed Jesus' power over demons to Beelzebul ([Mk 3:22–30](#)); see note on [Mk 5:21–43](#). There were those even among the relatives of Jesus who disbelieved and regarded Jesus as out of his mind ([Mk 3:21](#)). Against this background, Jesus is informed of the arrival of his mother and brothers [and sisters] ([Mk 3:32](#)). He responds by showing that not family ties but doing God's will ([Mk 3:35](#)) is decisive in the kingdom; cf. note on [Mt 12:46–50](#).

* [3:20] He came home: cf. [Mk 2:1–2](#) and see note on [Mk 2:15](#).

* [3:22] By Beelzebul: see note on [Mt 10:25](#). Two accusations are leveled against Jesus: (1) that he is possessed by an unclean spirit and (2) by the prince of demons he drives out demons. Jesus answers the second charge by a parable ([Mk 3:24–27](#)) and responds to the first charge in [Mk 3:28–29](#).

* [3:29] Whoever blasphemes against the holy Spirit: this sin is called an everlasting sin because it attributes to Satan, who is the power of evil, what is actually the work of the holy Spirit, namely, victory over the demons.

* [3:32] Your brothers: see note on [Mk 6:3](#).

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. Why do you think Jesus' relatives thought that he was 'out of his mind'? Did you ever have someone believe that you were too religious?
2. Why did the Scribes think that Jesus was possessed by the devil? What causes some people to have such twisted minds that they call evil what others see plainly as good?
3. Jesus says that his closest relatives are those who act on his word, who follow his will. • When is it hard to follow God's will? • What can help us to know we are following his will?
4. What is one thing Jesus is saying to us in this Sunday's gospel about how a disciple should speak or act?

Commentary

This gospel is an example of the literary technique known as the "Marcan sandwich." He begins a story, then interrupts the storyline with another story and thereafter returns to the original story.

Jesus' family believes that he is "out of his mind". They are upset with him. His unpopularity with the religious leaders of the day is causing problems for them. Hence, they come to take him home and get him out of the public scene.

Sandwiched between the opening and final scenes, which also has to do with his family, there is a confrontation between Jesus and the Pharisees. They claim that his miraculous powers come from Satan. Jesus responds with two parables. First, he asks them to ponder how a house divided against itself could possibly stand. The answer is that it could not. So the accusation that Jesus casts out unclean spirits through Beelzebub is clearly false; it would mean Satan's kingdom is ended. The scheming of the scribes is evidence enough that Satan's kingdom still flourishes.

The second parable is about a strong man being tied up and his house plundered. Applied to Jesus, this means that Jesus does in fact have power over Satan. It has been demonstrated already by the miracles in which Jesus freed others from unclean spirits through the power of God. Satan's kingdom, while not ended, is definitely on the road to failure through the work of Jesus.

The unforgivable sin. Is there an unforgivable sin? Jesus says that it is blasphemous and unforgivable to call the work of God evil and to accuse God's representative as an agent of Satan. But in truth, all sin is forgivable as long as the sinner is sincerely repentant. But sometimes people may become so consumed with darkness and evil that they have no desire to repent. In this part of today's Gospel, Jesus issues a stern warning against aligning ourselves with Satan.

The final part of today's Gospel raises two questions for Catholics: "Did Jesus have brothers and sisters?" and "Was Jesus rude to his mother?" Speaking to this, Margaret Nutting Ralph writes: "The references to Jesus' "brothers and sisters" do not conclusively answer the question of whether or not Jesus had full brothers and sisters, that is, siblings born of Mary, because the words brother and sister did not have that precise a meaning in Jesus' culture. The word brother could be referring to any of the following: brother, half-brother, stepbrother, cousin, or follower. Notice the passage doesn't say, "Mary and her children . . ." Regarding what some perceive as Jesus being rude to his mother, scholars tell us that Jesus wanted to communicate that the bond among his disciples is closer and more important than the bond among blood relatives. The closest relative of Jesus is he/she who hears his word and acts on it. No one did this better than Mary who is often called the "first disciple."

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom
Wednesday, June 2 6:30 – 7:30pm
Weekly on Wednesday
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting
Time: June 2, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618

Passcode: 280607