

2025-08-24

Who is Crazy Here?

Mark 3:20-30

If you are 100 % sure you are going to heaven, raise your hand and keep it up. As I look at all of you with your hand raised, none of you look good enough to get into heaven. I do not think any of you deserve to go to heaven because of your goodness. Are you sure you are going to heaven? Let me call on a few of you and ask you why you are so positive you are going to heaven when you die. Of course, I hope I hear the right response. No one is good enough to get into heaven. We are all sinners (Romans 3:23). Our sin has separated us from God (Isaiah 59:2). We do not get into heaven by doing good works (Ephesians 2:9). **We get into heaven because God** has provided a way for us to get into heaven. God has come into the world in human flesh, lived a perfect life and sacrificed His life on a cross, dying in our place to pay the debt for our sins. God the Father accepted the perfect sacrifice of God the Son to satisfy His righteous requirement for our sin (1 John 2:2). Everyone who turns away from their sinful life and trusts in the sacrifice that God accepts for our sin is freely given eternal life. If you raised your hand, you probably know John 3:16. Say it with me. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16).

This past week, President Trump said, “I want to try and get to heaven if possible. I’m hearing I’m not doing well.” President Trump was hoping that his actions of saving lives in Ukraine and ending that war would help him get into heaven. Whether he was stating a fact he believed or whether he was joking, I do not know. I do not know if he is a Christian. He may be. He may not be. I do not know. But, from this statement, he has made lots of people think about what it takes to get into heaven. If President Trump stated this as a matter of fact he believed, then he really does not understand Christianity. Salvation, getting into heaven is a free gift given by God to anyone and everyone who repents of their sins and trusts in Jesus, who is the only sacrifice God accepts to forgive our sins. Those who trust in Jesus **possess salvation**. We have eternal life. We get to go to heaven. No one can do good works to **attain** salvation and entrance into heaven. No one can do good works to **retain** salvation. I do good works because I possess salvation and my good works shows God and those around me that I possess salvation (John 14:21, 23). It is important to know and understand correctly God’s teaching about salvation and entrance into heaven. In a discussion Jesus was having with some Jews in the temple, He told them, *“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins: for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins”* (John 8:24). He told those Jews that they would die in their sin (8:21). He reminded them again. Who is Jesus? What are we to believe about Him?

Mark 3:20 *“Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.”* Jesus had become famous all over Israel because He healed so many people and cast out so many demons from people in Galilee. People came to Him from many places. The crowds would not leave Him alone. They were following Jesus to either get a healing from Him or to watch Him heal others and to see what was going to happen next. Jesus had chosen His 12 disciples and left the area to be alone on a mountain with them. When Jesus and His disciples returned, the crowd was ready to gather together and watch the show. This crowd was so demanding, Jesus and his followers had no privacy to even enjoy a meal together.

Verse 21 *“But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, ‘He is out of His mind.’”* Word had spread throughout the nation about Jesus, the healings He was performing, the crowds who followed Him and the controversies with the Jewish religious leaders. Word of these things even reached His family in Nazareth. His mother and brothers and sisters had decided to travel to Capernaum to rescue Him. They were going to *“lay hold of Him.”* They were going to take Him by force if necessary to save Him from Himself. I am not sure if they believed everything they were hearing about Jesus. What they did think was that He was *“out of His mind.”* **They thought He was crazy!** They needed to bring Him under their care and control for His own good. They perceived that Jesus’ healing ministry had caused Him to become unhealthy. Next week we will see how Jesus deals with His own family when they try to stop Him from doing God’s work.

Many people came up with their own theories to explain who Jesus was and how He, as a mere man so they thought, could heal so many people and cast out so many demons. King Herod, who had John the Baptist killed, believed that John had come back from the dead and given power to Jesus to perform all these miracles (Mark 6:14, 16). Other people thought that Jesus was Elijah, or the Prophet like Moses, or a person like the prophets (Mark 6:15). Others thought that Jesus was a son of David (Matthew 12:23). Some people were getting close to knowing who Jesus was. Then you had some Jewish scholars from Jerusalem who said that Jesus has Beelzebub.

Verse 22 *“And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He has Beelzebub,’ and, ‘By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.’”* When the family of Jesus arrived, they found Jesus engaged in a controversy with the scribes from Jerusalem. These scribes were the elite university professors of their day. They traveled to Galilee to try and control the crowd’s enthusiasm over Jesus. They taught that Jesus was possessed by Satan himself. This would be disturbing news to Jesus’ family if it were true. Beelzebub means “Lord of the flies.” It was a derogatory name the Jews gave to Satan to try and keep people away from him. These scribes did not deny the

healing ministry of Jesus. They just made the most absurd explanation saying that Jesus healed people by the power of evil. I did not know that evil had the potential to do good. The truth is, it does not. It seems the Jews believed in some type of an organization of evil. Their idea was that the more powerful demons can drive out less powerful demons. The most powerful demon, Satan, can drive out all demons. Since Jesus is casting out all demons, He must be doing it by the power of Satan.

Verses 23-24 “*So He called them to Himself and said to them in parables: ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.’*” Jesus called the scribes from Jerusalem to come to Him and discuss openly what they were saying about Him because it makes no sense. Did they even think about what they said. Has Satan ever done anything good? No! How did those people act who were possessed by demons? They were destructive to themselves and those around them (Mark 5:2-5 / 9:20-22). How did those people act who had the demons cast out of them? They were in their right mind. **Satan is always destructive** (John 8:44) but he would not be destructive to himself. Any kingdom or nation, if it is divided, that kingdom or nation will eventually destroy itself. **To say Jesus is evil and has come to destroy evil, is to say He is self-destructive.** For the Jewish scholars of their day to say that Jesus was healing people and casting out demons with the power of the chief demon, is crazy.

Verse 25 “*And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.*” Jesus is using a logical explanation to prove that what the scribes, the Jewish scholars are saying, cannot be true. If a house or a family is divided, that family will not survive. It will not last. **Jesus is always trying to get people to think.** He gave us a brain and He wants us to use it. Unfortunately, too many people just believe what they are told or what they want to believe and they will not evaluate what is being said. People believe all kinds of things that are not true, especially in the realm of religion, God, and the spirit world, heaven and how to get into heaven. Most people will not question what they have been taught. I think it is alright, even good to question Christ and Christianity. Paul wrote, “*Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? Unless indeed you are disqualified*” (2 Corinthians 13:5). God is not offended. He wants real people who really believe Him to really follow Him. I would contend that those who honestly seek the truth will end up with a stronger, deeper faith and trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Jesus challenged the disciples to grow deeper in their faith in Him or to leave Him, Peter answered, “*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God*” (John 6:68-69). This is exactly what Jesus wants all people to believe! Discover that Jesus is the Messiah. He is God.

Verse 26 “*And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end.* Will these Jewish scholars actually think about what they are saying about Jesus. The last thing Satan wants is to come to his end. His end is coming, maybe not soon enough for us, but his end will come and he knows it. He would not bring about his own destruction sooner by rising up against himself. That is crazy.

Verse 27 “*No one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.* Jesus gave the Jews another illustration. Who is the strong man? He is Satan. “*His goods*” are his demons. A strong man never plunders his own house. But to plunder a strong man’s house takes a stronger man. To plunder and bring an end to Satan takes someone stronger than Satan. God, who is all powerful is much stronger than Satan. Jesus casting out all demons is evidence that God has come to begin the defeat of Satan.

Verses 28-29 “*Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter: but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation.*” Now Jesus gives the scribes from Jerusalem and all who are listening a very important warning. Jesus is speaking an eternal truth. If people will repent, God is willing to forgive them any and every sin (Luke 13:3, 5 / 17:3-4 / 2 Peter 3:9). “*But he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness.*” **Why do people seek forgiveness from God?** Because they have realized they have sinned against God and need His forgiveness. If you have truly sought God’s forgiveness you will find His forgiveness only through the sacrifice of Jesus who shed His blood to forgive all sins. You have not and will not fall into this trap because God is at work in you to bring about His forgiveness. **But if you never think you have sinned against God and you never seek His forgiveness, He cannot forgive you.** You never have God’s forgiveness and have blasphemed against the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts you that you have sinned against God. It is the Holy Spirit who reveals to you that you have complete forgiveness only through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ Jesus. To reject His work rejects His conviction and God’s forgiveness. Why did these scribes from Jerusalem reject the convicting work of the Holy Spirit?

Verse 30 “*Because they said, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’*” These scribes who had come from Jerusalem believed that Jesus was evil. They took Satan’s bait and fell into His trap. They believed good was bad and bad was good (Isaiah 5:20). Those who believe that the truth of Jesus is a lie and the lies about Jesus are true, will never seek God’s forgiveness in Jesus and so can never be forgiven. Don’t believe the lies of Satan. Believe the revealed truth of God in Jesus. Who is Jesus? He is the Son of God, God the Son, the Messiah who gave His life to forgive our sin.

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Who is Crazy Here?

Mark 3:20-30

Questions to ask yourself?

Are you 100% sure you are going to heaven when you die? Why?
Do you possess eternal life?
What are those people supposed to do who possess eternal life?
Can you get into heaven by doing good deeds?
Can you keep, retain your salvation by doing good deeds?

- Mark 3:20 How often were the crowds around Jesus?
3:21 What did Jesus' mom and brothers think about Jesus?
 Other Jews thought Jesus was what?
3:22 What did the scribes think about Jesus?

3:23-24 What happens when a kingdom or nation is divided?
 Is evil ever good?
3:25 Why did God give you a brain?
 When you test yourself, if you are a Christian, what is the proof?

3:26 Would Satan cause himself to be destroyed?
3:27 Who is the "strong man"? What are "his goods"?
 Who is the strongest Man?
3:28-29 How do you blaspheme against the Holy Spirit?
 Who does Jesus claim to be?
3:30 Who is crazy?

Actions to take:

Seek God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ.
Possess eternal life and show it by doing good deeds.

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Our mission statement: **Spread the gospel of Jesus Christ;**
Teach believers to worship God; Foster growth in the Christian faith