

3:20-21

Then the multitude came together again, again? In the house? So he gets away from the house to get with the Father to get away in 1:37-39 and he gets away from the multitude in 3:7 because some are seeking to kill Him, and here he goes into a house go get away...and **they could not so much as eat bread.** **21 But when His ^qown people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, ^rfor they said, “He is out of His mind.”** So the idea is that his family is far enough away that they need to travel. They appear to get to Jesus in 3:31, thus requiring the episode which follows to take place in the meanwhile. Mary need not be singled out here, but merely a part of group of perhaps 6 or more which mostly believed Jesus was crazy. Also, Mark had no seeming discrepancies to “clear up” as he makes no attempts at Mary’s inside information about Jesus’ personhood. More notes in 3:31.

3:22

And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebub,” “lord of the flies” or “lord of the dung” are the composition of the parts of this word in the original language.

“He has Beelzebub,” When Heaven speaks: “Beloved Son” (1:11). When Hell speaks “Holy One of God” (1:24). In this context, the demons say He is the Son of God (1:11); the family says “He’s crazy” (1:21); the enemy says “He’s demon-possessed.”

3:23-30

So He called them to Himself and said to them in parables: “How can Satan cast out Satan? So here, the terms “Beelzebub” and **Satan** and “ruler of demons” are deemed synonymous by Jesus. **24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end. 27 ^vNo 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.** Now, I don’t want us to lose the wonder of Jesus appealing to the logic of these antagonizers. I find no clue in this passage or others that the Jesus spoke these logical checks for the benefit of the bystanders alone. No, Jesus called them over and engaged them.

He gives three logical fallacies: a divided house, a divided kingdom, a self-conflicting ‘Satan’. This really is the cost of opposing Jesus: You become illogical. LAST WEEK we discussed college students who say there is no “right or wrong”...until you cross their rights and they declare you are...”wrong.” THIS WEEK I’d like to remind you that you live in a world where two laws of thermodynamics exist, the first of which is “Energy can be neither created nor destroyed.” Supposedly, there has never been less energy in the universe than there is now. The big bang began out of this same energy merely changing forms and if you’ve done any physics you know that $F=MA$. For energy to exist in the same quantity in the universe and for us to have expanding mass...every expanding mass, then acceleration must be decreasing...yet it is not. Rather, they are noticing that acceleration is increasing the further away from the point of this so-called explosion. Then those who say that acceleration is not increasing will say that it was infinitely fast before the big bang in order to allow for all pre-expansion mass to be in an area the size of a pinhead. So, to summarize, one of the best explanations, without a creator, for

^qMark 6:3

^rJohn 7:5

^vIs. 49:24, 25

everything that now is... is that everything that now is existed in an area the size of a pinhead and was traveling at infinitely expanding speeds of acceleration until a bang occurred. We might ask, “when did the mass consolidate to an area this small to allow for the increase of acceleration at this rate?” When you disregard the Creator—or better, the Creator Who became flesh—you become illogical and of greater faith than any Christian could ever be!

Jesus is concerned for these men. He didn’t have to engage them, yet the only alternative is that He is indeed the one Who bound the strong man.

Jesus must be casting them out by the Spirit of God because there are less and less demonic fruits in their existing kingdom. For example, less blind and mute folks are living around there...so Jesus must be “binding Satan.” What is the evidence for us today? Consider the words of one of my favorite preachers of all time:

“Christ has led his church against principalities, world powers, wickedness in high places, against the most stubborn of all man’s foes and that is sin. He has led it successfully in the face of bitter opposition of apathy, indifference, frigid coldness, glaring human weakness, bloody wars, world’s darkest hour, limitless depravity, sickening lukewarmness, hottest fires of destruction, floods of cynicism, and the most bitter criticism. His followers have faced lions dens, braved firey furnaces, suffered burning..., exposed themselves to disease, hunger, suffering and death, endured privations, made sacrifices and prayed, cried, and died to see the church move on to victory and they have been singing as they move along thru floods and flames of ‘If Jesus leads I’ll follow where he goes; hinder me not shall be my cry though earth and hell oppose.’

He’s in our midst to strengthen us in our weakness, to enlighten us in our ignorance, to shear us in our gloom, to console us in our sorrows, to harden us in our defeats, save our lost, give inspiration for our tasks. With Jesus [in our midst, we go on marching like a mighty army with banners; carrying the blood stained banner of the cross of Christ. We...the church...are not weaklings, falling] before the onslaughts of sarcasm. [We are not] soft puff to be cuffed and trampled underfoot by wicked men. [Our] influences span every sea; [our] power ascends every hill, subdues every nation and calls all people to [rise to] their knees.

Come on all ye people of God’s church fall in line, close up the ranks, and march on through burning sands and frozen mountain tops until the whole earth surrenders to [Jesus Christ]!”¹

28 ^w“Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; It seems as though we should never get over the fact that not only is “forgiveness” man’s greatest need, but it is also God’s most significant provision to us. This word for **forgive** is used previously of dropping nets (1:20), a fever departing (1:31), and of sins forgiven—oddly enough by this very selfsame “Son of Man” (2:5-7).

Incidentally, 2:5-7 drives us to remember that this forgiveness was granted to the one and only person granted forgiveness of sin thus far by “faith,” not prayer. SHAMELESS PLUG FOR MAY 21st VBS TRAINING.

¹Homer F. Greene *A Gathering of Memories*, page 72.

^w1 John 5:16

Maybe we should just stand back and admire our Lord Jesus Who is actually offering forgiveness to these shameless men who accused Him of being demon possessed to begin with...and continually did so (see the imperfect tense of 3:30).

29 but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit The implication, of course, is that Jesus did all by the power of the **Holy Spirit**. This sin seems to be summed up in the following statements:

1. Men and Women continually confess what they believe (Romans 10:9-10).
2. The Scribes were continually confessing that Christ's Works and Words were from Satan (see tense of 3:30).
3. This confession was speech against the real origin of His Works and Words: The Holy Spirit.
4. This confession against the Holy Spirit is called **blasphemy**.
5. So long as they confessed this, they indicated they had a heart that thought this.
6. So long as they had a heart that confessed this, they could not be forgiven...for they were rejecting what the Holy Spirit produced in the Person and Work of Jesus.
7. So long as anybody rejected the witness of Jesus Christ, as empowered by the Holy Spirit, they were unforgivable and were damned.

never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation”—30 because they ^xsaid, we are not free, then, to simply say “blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is merely resisting the Holy Spirit.” **“He has an unclean spirit.”** So, if Jesus is not filled with demons as the Pharisees said, and if He is not crazy like His family said, then He must be Who He says He is: “He truly owns us,” the disciple says. “He alone has power to forgive sin. He controls demons and disease.” This changes everything: For if He controls the laws of nature in the storms and in the diseases and in the demons, then He controls the laws of morals and controls forgiveness and the judgment to come. Won't you seek forgiveness? It's logical. It's only logical.

^xJohn 7:20; 8:48, 52; 10:20