

## March 1, 2026 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group

### “Insiders and Outsiders” – Mark 3:20-35

1. There is a human tendency to act like the boys in "Lord of the Flies"—forming little tribes to ensure we are on the "inside" and nudging out those who threaten our status. Where do you see this tribalism most clearly in our culture today (e.g., in the workplace, neighborhoods, or social media, or the church)?
2. Read Mark 3:20-22. In these verses, we see two different groups trying to control or manage Jesus: His family and the religious scribes. What was the underlying fear motivating His family? What was motivating the scribes?
3. Jesus' family was deeply concerned about "optics" and the shame He was bringing to their name in a first-century honor/shame culture. In what ways do we still try to "manage" Jesus today out of a fear of looking foolish or losing our own social standing?
4. The religious leaders didn't just disagree with Jesus; they called the work of the Holy Spirit the work of "Beelzebul" (the Lord of the Dung/Flies). Why is our self-righteousness—our desire to climb the spiritual leaderboard—so deeply threatened by the pure, uncontrollable grace of Jesus?
5. Read Mark 3:23-27. Jesus shifts the perspective entirely with the parable of the Strong Man. How does viewing our salvation as a "rescue" by the Stronger Man completely dismantle the idea that we can earn our way to being a spiritual insider?
6. Read Mark 3:28-30. This passage contains the frightening warning about the "unforgivable sin" (blaspheming the Holy Spirit). What is this sin actually, versus what it is not? How does this relieve the anxiety of sensitive Christians?
7. Read Mark 3:31-32. Notice the physical location of Jesus' biological family. They are standing outside sending someone in to get Him. What is the tragic irony of this moment? What covenantal obligations are being denied by a parent and family?
8. Read Mark 3:33-35. Jesus looks at those simply sitting around Him and declares them His true family. What is the difference between "doing the will of God" to become an insider, versus doing the will of God because you already are an insider? According to the gospel up to this point (first three chapters), what has Jesus commanded us to do in conformity with God's will?
9. When we realize our standing with God is entirely a gift—plundered for us by the Stronger Man—how should that change the way we interact with other believers who might disagree with us on secondary issues (like theology, politics, or cultural preferences)?

10. The sermon concluded with Galatians 5:1: "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." What specific "yoke of slavery" or tribal expectation do you need to let go of this week to live freely as a secure son or daughter of God?

11. Because you have been welcomed to sit at Jesus' feet, who is an "outsider" in your life right now that you get to welcome this week with gentle grace and patience?

12. Where is the Lord leading you to embrace your spiritual family? Maybe there is an older member of your church, full of experience and love for the Lord. How can you initiate a relationship with him or her so that the Holy Spirit may lead you both to further sanctification? Are there younger members of your church who would benefit from your investment into their lives?