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# a stronger man Mark 3:20-30

A STRONGER MAN

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In this passage notice these key elements: The teachers of the law traveled quite a distance to turn the crowd against Jesus; Jesus uses a practical argument to address the teacher's claim; and Jesus illustrates Himself as the stronger man. Jesus is making inroads into Jewish turf and they want to stop Him. They are making outlandish claims in order to do so. No one wants to follow a pawn of Satan.

Then Jesus discloses who He really is. He is the one who can enter the strong man's house (Satan's kingdom), tie Satan up and rob him of his possessions (the lost and possessed). Jesus is far stronger than Satan. He has invaded Satan's kingdom (the world) and is taking over by stealing the lost away from him.

**THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN**

Now let's address the elephant in the room. The unforgivable sin. Again, notice the details in the passage: It is addressed to the Scribes (or Teachers of the Law) who are the most educated biblical scholars of their day; the Greek conveys an ongoing campaign of repeated, verbal public proclamation that Jesus is Satan, in order to have sway over the crowd and get them to reject Jesus. They also claim, Jesus has an unclean spirit / he himself is demon possessed and operates under the power of Beelzebub. In this story Beelzeb*el* meaning Lord of the House, the one Jesus robs of its possessions. The Scribes have made a 180 degree shift from reality ( the reader already knows from Mark 1:10 Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit). This shift from reality to delusion is seen in passages like Romans 1 as well. In addition, the Scribes are not saying this about Jesus, they are saying it about the Holy Spirit.

Some worry that they have committed the unforgivable sin and have blasphemed against the Holy Spirit. Look at the context. If so, you would need to be one of the top biblical scholars in society (this is addressed to the Scribes), thoroughly versed in Scripture. You would need to have witnessed a clear demonstration of the Holy Spirit (Jesus has cast out demons, taught God's Word and healed every kind of illness and disease, and the Scribes know it). You would have to do a reversal of values (180 degrees opposite God's) and be convinced what is Holy is unholy (not that you just doubt it or find it suspect). You would have to do this repeatedly and with the motivation (campaigning) to turn others to your way of thinking and away from God, and do it with full conviction! You would have to believe that Jesus isn't God incarnate but evil incarnate.

I highly doubt this is you! Likewise, notice He doesn't even condemn the Scribes. He tells us that every sin can be forgiven (millions, billions of them) - except one. This is a warning to the Scribes that if they continue down the path that they are on they will find themselves at a place of no return. Even here there is grace and the Good News of forgiveness - except for one.