

# CONN<sup>3</sup>CT

## Small Group Bible Study

### Mark 3:20-35 Hard Heart

February 19, 2012

Do subtle doubts about Jesus and His gospel ever show up in your mind? Consider and discuss to begin. What do you do when these doubts begin to creep in?

Read Mark 3:20-21.

How does Jesus's family react to these events? What is their concern, and is this a concern that you would share as a parent or sibling in a normal circumstance?

Consider that Capernaum is about 30 miles away from Jesus's hometown of Nazareth. How does this add to your understanding of their concern? What were they doubting about Jesus?

Continue with Mark 3:22. What is the difference between how the teachers see Jesus and how His family sees him? Which is more serious in your eyes?

Jesus begins His response with a parable. Read Mark 3:23-26.

What public miracles has Jesus done up to this point according to the gospel of Mark?

What does Jesus mean when He speaks of Satan driving out Satan, and a house divided?

Continue with verse 27. Who is the strong man, and what is his house?

How do Ephesians 4:7-10 and Hebrews 2:14 help your understanding of this verse?

Read Mark 3:28. What wording does Jesus use to strengthen His assertion about the forgiveness of sins?

Why do you think He makes special mention of slander along with all other sins in general?

Continue with verse 29.

What does it mean to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit? Why is this an eternal sin?

Consider the following questions:

1. What is our condition before God when left to our own devices? Isaiah 59:2-3
2. What was Jesus's reason from coming into the world? 1 John 4:9-10
3. Who is the Holy Spirit? Read Matthew 1:18 and Luke 4:14-15 as you consider.

Look back at the events leading up to this. Why did Jesus respond so seriously to the accusation that the power of the Holy Spirit was from Satan?

How is this different from the many questions and doubts we face every day as believers?

With this in mind, what was Jesus's reminder to believers? What encouragement do you take from this?

