

PASTOR'S NOTES

Jesus: Is he Lord, liar, or lunatic?

Mark 3:20–35

Jesus has overcome Satan and set free those who were captive to sin, forgiving them and making them family.

Beelzebul – lit. “lord of this house;” colloquial title for Satan, the chief demon.

The religious leaders’ charged Jesus with doing parlor tricks and effectively being a demon working with demons to do supernatural stuff to deceive people. While such an occurrence is certainly possible, the problem with their logic is that Jesus’s ministry dealt blow after blow to the spiritual forces of darkness as he brought genuine healing, forgiveness of sins, and righteous transformation to humanity—all of which Satan rages against. So, what they were suggesting was ludicrous.

Jesus was not shuffling people from one deception to another, further hardening them in their sin. He was calling them out of darkness into his marvelous light. Instead, Jesus’s miracles demonstrated the power and righteousness of his kingdom, the truth of his message, and prefigured his victory over Satan at the cross.

The Lord of Lords is stronger than “the Lord of this house.”

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:14-17 ESV)

“The devil was conquered precisely when he was thought to be conquering, namely, when Christ was crucified. For at that moment the blood of him who had no sin at all, was shed for the remission of our sins. The devil deservedly held those whom he had bound by sin to the condition of death. So it happened that One who was guilty of no sin freed them justly from this condemnation. The strong man was conquered by this paradoxical justice and bound by this chain, that his vessels might be taken away. Those vessels which had been vessels of wrath were turned into vessels of mercy.” – Augustine

The Work of the King

1.

Jesus freed us from Satan’s chains of sin and shame so that we might do the will of God.
2.

Jesus forgives us all our sins, making us as white as snow.

“The plain and wonderful truth of v. 28 must not be overlooked because of the difficulty of v. 29.” – James A. Brooks

3.

Jesus welcomes us not as distant servants but as his very own family.

Stop worrying about the unforgiveable sin.

cf. John 5:37-39; 16:8-11, 13-14

The religious leaders had rejected the testimony of the Father about Christ and true righteousness. They had rejected the Son and determined in their heart to kill them. Now, they were persistent in their calling the Holy Spirit Satan—and there’s not a fourth person of the Trinity who would add to the testimony of the three. They had reached the end of the line so to speak (Wiersbe).

They despised God the Father, who desired *steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings* (Hosea 6:6 ESV). They murdered God the Son. And they rejected the Apostle’s testimony after Pentecost and put to death men like Stephen who were full of the Spirit. They persisted in their blasphemy and faithlessness and thus missed out on the bounty of the New Covenant which was theirs according to the flesh (Romans 9:4–8).

But what about today?

A few things help us understand this sin today:

1.

The tense (aorist) and mood (subjunctive) of the verb “blaspheme” indicate two things (1) that the whole is in view, meaning that what was in view was not a particular moment but the sum of one’s life when it’s all said and done, and (2) the final outcome is still uncertain, meaning that these leaders were certainly on track to blaspheme the Holy Spirit but Jesus was warning them that they might change course.
2.

Today, we often think of blasphemy in terms of certain curses and matters of speech, but more fundamentally, one blasphemes *with their lives* of rebellion and rejection of God.

To blaspheme the Holy Spirit is simply to reject his testimony of Christ being the Son of God who took on flesh for us and our salvation, calling evil that which is good. It comes packaged with the rejection of the Father and the Son that results in rebellious lifestyles of sin (cf. Rom 1).

So . . .

- Do you recognize you are a sinner in need of salvation?
- Do believe in God the Father, the maker of heaven and earth?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who became human, died on the cross for our sins under Pontius Pilate, rose from the dead three days later, ascended to the Father’s right hand, and is coming back again to judge the living and the dead and to establish his kingdom which will have no end?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life?
- Have you called upon the name of the Lord for salvation, surrendering to Jesus as Lord?

If so, then stop worrying about the unforgiveable sin.

If you reject all of that, if you think Jesus is crazy or a force for evil in the world: be warned, the Father and Spirit agree with Jesus’s message that he is the Son of God and there is salvation in no one else. To blaspheme the Spirit’s testimony by rejecting Jesus Christ as proclaimed by the apostles is a recipe for certain judgment—but you don’t have to stay there.

Come ye sinners, poor and needy
Weak and wounded sick and sore
Jesus ready stands to save you
With compassion, love and power



MeadowBrook
CHURCH

Sunday, November 1, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com

Thanksgiving
Lunch

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
11:45 AM • GYM

\$10 Adult Plate
\$5 Kids Plate {12 & under}

Tickets available at mbchurch.com
or on the MeadowBrook App



Turkey & Dressing, Green Beans, Corn,
Sweet Potato Soufflé, Rolls & Desserts



Surviving the Holidays

TODAY ❄️ 2:00 PM ❄️ Conference Center

Facilitated by: Amelia Day, Bob Sanford,
Sue Chappell and Wayne Findley



★★ **SECRET SUPPER** ★★
Ladies' Night Out
THURSDAY, NOV 5
5:30-8:00 PM
REGISTER on the App
or mbchurch.com



Women on Mission
Lottie Moon Cookie Bake
SUNDAY, NOV 15
2-4 PM • DINING HALL
RSVP on the App
or mbchurch.com

family
DEDICATION
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
9:00 & 10:30 AM
Today is the last day to sign up!
Register on the App or mbchurch.com



HIGH SCHOOL
WINTER
RETREAT '26
DECEMBER 28-31
WINTERPLACE SKI RESORT
WEST VIRGINIA
REGISTER ON THE APP
OR MBCHURCH.COM



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 6

Mission Team to Taiwan

TODAY

8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool
2:00 pm - GriefShare Surviving the Holidays - Conference Center
6:30 pm - The Collective - Theater

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

10:00 am - GriefShare - Conference Center
4:30 pm - Men's Bible Study - Conference Center

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Worship Center

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Gym
(Fried Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Field Peas,
Fried Okra, Biscuits, Dessert, or Salad with a Protein
Kids: Same or PB&J)
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 210
6:30 pm - Wednesday Men's Group & Women's Group,
Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Middle School Worship,
High School Worship, Worship Ministry Rehearsal

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

5:30 pm - Secret Supper Ladies' Night Out

Welcome

If you are our GUEST,
we'd like to CONNECT
with you! Please fill out
a **CONNECTION CARD**
and stop by
GUEST CONNECTIONS
for a FREE gift!



Take the next step toward
finding Christ-Centered
community at MeadowBrook
by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes,
pick up a Life Group booklet
at Guest Connections.

2026 DAILY BIBLE READING

Nov 1 - Haggai 1:1-11
Nov 2 - Haggai 1:12-15
Nov 3 - Haggai 2:1-9
Nov 4 - Haggai 2:10-23

Nov 5 - Zechariah 1:1-17
Nov 6 - Zechariah 1:18-21
Nov 7 - Zechariah 2



MEADOWBROOK'S

Christmas CELEBRATION

THE KING IS COMING

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus—our Savior and King!
This year, we're excited to offer three services, including a special matinee,
featuring our combined choirs, Orchestra, and Kids Choir. Tickets are
\$5 each, with all proceeds going to our International Missions Offering.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 at 6:30 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 1:30 PM
{55+ Lunch Combo option available}

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 6:30 PM

Tickets available on the App or mbchurch.com

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kyle Hughes, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Janye Ingram, Tiki Kemp,
Anna Rae Wilson, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins, Loucille Edge

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams,
Archie Wade, Landon Cunningham, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores
Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise,
Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge,
Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Tim Davis, Gerry Grant, Linda Dees, Dorothy Hand,
Kenny Cahall, Larry Parker, Sandra & Wendell Qualls, Aiden Barron

• Don Garris - Encompass Rehab