

Introduction

On November 16, 1997, I heard one of the most powerful sermons that I had ever heard. It was my first church plant and we had invited Mike Haley, an apostle from Oklahoma, to come preach at our church. Mike preached on the Storms of Life, using Acts 27 as his text. He opened that morning by saying that he was addressing three groups of people. He said that some of you have just gone through a storm, and this message is for you. Some of you are going through a storm right now, and this message is for you. Some of you are about to go through a storm, and this message is for you. That same message would be relevant today because the whole earth is going through a storm. Even though Mike was personally going through a life-threatening storm, one that would take his life a few months later, he gave a powerful message that morning.

I am not talking about a storm this morning, but I am talking about three groups of people. After Jesus had appointed the twelve apostles, He went home and a large crowd gathered. I call these the Seekers. Some were seeking signs. Some were seeking healing. Some were seeking deliverance. Some were seeking God and were wondering if Jesus was indeed the Messiah. Jesus' own family members were there and some of them were not believers yet. They had not made a decision to reject Jesus, but they were watching everything He did. What were these seekers saying? They were saying, "Show us a sign," or "Show us who You are."

A second group of people came down from Jerusalem. They were not seeking Jesus. They had rejected Jesus and they were seeking how they could destroy Him. They were seeking evidence and an opportunity to get rid of Jesus. I call this group the scoffers. These scoffers accused Jesus of having a demonic spirit and doing the things that He was doing by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons. What were these scoffers saying? They were saying blasphemous things about Jesus.

There is a third group of people and these are the saved ones. Our text ends today with Jesus' family coming to Him, and when it was reported that they were at the door, He asked, "Who are My mother and brothers?" Then, He said, "Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother." Jesus made a distinction between those that were saved and those who were not saved. Being a family member is not going to get you into heaven. Those who are saved have made Jesus Lord of their life and are doing His will. What were the saved ones saying about Jesus? They were saying, "He is Lord." Turn to Mark 3:20-35, and let's read our passage.

What Do You Say About Jesus (Mark 3:20-35)

1. Seekers: Show Me
2. Scoffers: You're Not God
3. Saved: You Are Lord

(Mark 3:20-21) "And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. {21} When His own people heard *of this*, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses."

(Mark 3:22-30) "The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons." {23} And He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? {24} "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. {25} If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. {26} If Satan has risen up against himself and is

divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished! {27} But no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house. {28} Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; {29} but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— {30} because they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

(Mark 3:31-35) "Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent *word* to Him and called Him. {32} A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You." {33} Answering them, He said, "Who are My mother and My brothers?" {34} Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He said, "Behold My mother and My brothers! {35} For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother."

1. Seekers: Show Me

Jesus had been out on the road. He had been to Jerusalem where He had healed the lame man by the pool of Bethesda. He was confronted by the religious leaders for telling the man to pick up his pallet and walk because He had done that on a Sabbath. He had come back to Galilee and had confrontations with the religious leaders about the Sabbath in a grain field and in the temple. Therefore, the religious leaders were persecuting Him, and had even joined forces with the Herodians to find a way to destroy Him. Jesus went up to the mountain to pray about ordaining the twelve apostles. After ordaining them, Jesus came home. His family had moved from Nazareth to Capernaum, which is where Jesus was now calling home. After being on a long, busy ministry trip, going home is a nice place. I used to spend about 270 days a year on the road, and I looked forward to going home. Going home meant that I got some down time. Jesus came home and I am sure He had some thoughts about getting away from the crowds and the hectic schedule and getting some rest.

(Mark 3:20-21) "And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal."

Mark tells us that when He came home, it was not the quiet place He might have hoped for. He did not get away from the crowds at all. The crowd gathered again. We saw earlier in Mark 3:7-8 that people had come from everywhere. They came from Jerusalem, Idumea, Galilee, Tyre, Sidon and beyond the Jordan. These were SEEKERS. They had come to seek out Jesus. They had heard of all that He was doing and they wanted to see. Many heard that Jesus was the Messiah and they wanted to see. Many heard of the healings that He was performing, and they needed healing. Many heard that He was casting out demons and setting people free, and they came seeking Jesus for deliverance.

(Mark 3:7-8) "Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples; and a great multitude from Galilee followed; and *also* from Judea, {8} and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon, a great number of people heard of all that He was doing and came to Him."

In fact, so many people came that Jesus and His disciples could not even eat a meal. Seekers are at different places in their journey to find Christ. In our relational evangelism training we found that evangelism is a process, not an event. Jesus compared evangelism to sowing and reaping. Some people are at the cultivating stage, and their hearts are not ready for the seed. They are like

the parable of the different soils. Their hearts may be hardened. Other people may be receptive to the seed, but there are some rocks or things that prevent them from getting rooted. Some may be receptive but the worries of the world choke out the seed and they do not bear fruit. Seekers are at different places in their search for God. It is a process and successful evangelism is helping people move one step closer to believing and receiving Christ.

(Mark 3:20) “And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal.”

Some of these seekers were actively pursuing and seeking the Messiah. Some were there to see what was going on. There were some seekers in Jesus’ own family. When Jesus’ family saw the crowds and that Jesus could not even eat a meal, they were saying that He lost His senses. They had not rejected Christ, but they were not at the receptive stage yet. I don’t believe they were even actively pursuing God. They were sitting back and taking in everything. In their natural eyes, what Jesus was doing did not make sense, and so they said that He had lost His senses.

(Mark 3:21) “When His own people heard *of this*, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, “He has lost His senses.”

In Mere Christianity,¹ C.S. Lewis wrote that Jesus was either a lunatic, liar, or Lord. Jesus’ family thought He had lost His senses and was a lunatic. There are many people that have made comments to me that I need to stop doing what I am doing and play some golf and take it easy. They think that I am crazy to do what I am doing. They are like Jesus’ own family, who did not understand His zeal for the kingdom of God. Jesus was passionate about the kingdom of God and He wanted to see people enter the kingdom of God. He went around preaching the kingdom of God and demonstrating the kingdom of God to people.

Some of these people were close to the kingdom and some were more distant. Some had come a great distance to find the Messiah. Some were just there taking it in. Let me encourage you to pray for the seekers that you know. Pray for their hearts to be softened. Pray for opportunities to share testimonies with them. Pray for the Lord to reveal Himself to them. Pray for opportunities to serve them and show them the kindness of God. Pray for divine appointments and opportunities. Pray for their salvation.

If you are listening this morning, and you are seeking God, let me encourage you with a couple of verses. In Deuteronomy 4:29, Moses wrote that when you seek the Lord you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. If you are seeking God, seek Him with all your heart and soul. Ask God to reveal Himself to you. He said that you will find Him if you search for Him with your whole heart.

(Deut 4:29) “But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find *Him* if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.”

The prophet Jeremiah said the same thing. In Jeremiah 29:13, God tells us, “You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.” In addition to praying and asking God to reveal Himself to you, let me encourage you to read the gospel of John. Read a chapter a day

¹ Lewis, C. S., Mere Christianity, London: Collins, 1952, pp. 54–56. (In all editions, this is Bk. II, Ch. 3, “The Shocking Alternative.”)

and think about each verse as you read it. Ask God to open your mind and heart to understand what you are reading. That is one of the ways that we seek Him.

(Jer 29:13) “You will seek Me and find *Me* when you search for Me with all your heart.”

Let me encourage to do one more thing. When this COVID-19 virus threat ends and the restrictions on meeting have ended, let me encourage you to find a church and attend the services. The church is the body of Christ. If you want to find God, one of the best places to seek Him is in the assembly of His body. In 1 Corinthians 14, some seekers came to the service and they experienced the presence of God, and declared, “God is certainly among you.” Those seekers found God when they found a body of believers and attended their services.

(1 Cor 14:24-25) “But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; {25} the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.”

2. Scoffers: You Are Not God

The second group are the scoffers. Our text does not call them scoffers; that is a designation that I gave them. These scribes were not open to Christ. They had already made a decision and had rejected Christ. They had come down from Jerusalem to persecute and find grounds to accuse and destroy Jesus. They accused Jesus of being possessed by Beelzebul. They also accused Him of casting out demons by the ruler of the demons.

(Mark 3:22) “The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, ‘He is possessed by Beelzebul,’ and ‘He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.’”

Beelzebul was a name for Satan. They accused Jesus of being possessed by Satan and casting out demons by the ruler of the demons, which was Satan. The name Beelzebul probably came from the pagan god, Baal, which means lord. In 2 Kings 1:1-3, Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber and became ill, so he sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron. He wanted to know if he was going to recover from this sickness. But the angel of the Lord told Elijah to go to the King of Samaria and say to him, “Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron.” So, Baal-zebub was the pagan god of Ekron. As I mentioned, Baal means master or lord. Zebub means flies, so the name means lord of the flies. Notice that these scoffers accused Jesus of being possessed by Beel-zebub, not Baal-zebub. One scholar said that when the ending was changed from a “b” to an “l” the meaning of the word changed from fly to manure. The Jews hated the false god of the Caananites and purposely had corrupted the name of their god. Gradually the name became used for Satan, the ruler of the demons.

(2 Kings 1:1-3) “Now Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab. {2} And Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber which *was* in Samaria, and became ill. So he sent messengers and said to them, ‘Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I will recover from this sickness.’ {3} But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, ‘Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and say to them, ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel *that* you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?’”

Let's look at Jesus' response to the scoffers. After being accused of being possessed by the devil and casting out demons by the Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons, Jesus asked the scribes a couple of questions. First, He asked, "How can Satan cast out Satan?" Then, He explained, "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." Jesus gave a second example, "If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand." He then explained to them that if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished!" Jesus did not counter attack and call them names. Jesus gave them a logical answer that made it very clear that He was not possessed by Satan, or doing the works that He was doing by the power of Satan. If Jesus was not doing these things by Satanic power, then He had to be operating by another power.

(Mark 3:23-26) "And He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? {24} "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. {25} If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. {26} If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished!"

The defense that Jesus made with them is a great spiritual principle. A kingdom divided will not stand. A house divided will not stand. A business divided will not stand. A house of God divided will not stand. The English word, divided, comes from di, which means apart, and vider, which means to see. It is to see apart or to have different visions. It is important for a house to have a common vision. It is important for a church to have a common vision. When I speak to leaders, I encourage them to establish a clear vision, a clear mission, a clear purpose, and to have a clear set of core values. Vision is who you are and are becoming. Your mission is what you are going to do. Your purpose is why you are doing what you are doing. Your core values are how you are you going to do what you are doing. All four of these are important to having a unified house.

The Greek word for divided is merizo (Strong's G3307) which comes from meros, which means to receive one's portion. In a divided house everyone has their own portion. In a divided house the husband says, "this is mine" or the wife may say, "this belongs to me." I don't think that it only applies to belongings; I believe it applies to desires and goals. In a divided house, the man wants this and the wife wants something very different. They are pursuing different things and that creates division. Jesus and the scribes all understood this principle.

How do you get on the same page? How do you have unity in a kingdom, home, or church. Let me give just a few quick applications. Make God first in your home. If both the wife and husband are putting God first and seeking God's will, it is not about his or hers; it is about what God wants. Joshua understood this. He told the children of Israel to choose you today whom they were going to serve, but as for him, he and his house were going to serve the Lord.

(Josh 24:15) "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Second, understand that marriage is not a contract; it is a covenant between a man, woman, and God. In that covenant there is no yours and mine; the two become one. (See Genesis 2:24.)

(Gen 2:24) “For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”

Third, above all other things, seek love. In Colossians 3:14 Paul wrote, “love is the perfect bond of unity.” I have found in a lot of marriage counseling that I have done that many couples do not understand what love is. They think it is a feeling or emotion. Take some time to look at 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, which I call the character of love. Love is not selfish, so pursue looking out for the interests of others instead of your own interests. Pursue being kind to one another. Pursue being patient with one another. Pursue bearing with one another. Pursue not taking into account a wrong suffered, which means that you practice forgiveness. Pursue love and it will bond you.

(Col 3:14) “Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.”

(1 Cor 13:4-7) “Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, {5} does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, {6} does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; {7} bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

In Jesus’ priestly prayer in John 17, He prayed that the church would be unified. He said that if we are one, just as He and the Father are one, the world would believe that Jesus had been sent by the Father. In other words, when the church is divided, it has a negative impact on our evangelism. In a positive way, when the church is unified, it helps the world see who Jesus is.

(John 17:20-21) “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; {21} that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

Jesus also told His disciples in John 13:34-35 to love one another. He said, “by this all men will know that you are My disciples if you love one another.” Love is the perfect bond of unity and if you pursue love in your home, you will have unity and the world will see Christ in you.

(John 13:34-35) “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. {35} By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Fourth, learn to communicate effectively with one another. The tower of Babel is a great lesson on unity. They had a common vision and goal and they had great communication. Because of that, God said that nothing would be impossible for them. The unfortunate thing was they were building something that God did not want. They were not pursuing God’s will and so God confused their language so they could not communicate. When the communication broke down, they divided and went their separate ways. (See Genesis 11:1-9.)

(Gen 11:1-8) “Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words....{6} The LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. {7} Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.” {8} So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.”

After speaking to them about a divided kingdom or house, Jesus continued by saying that no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property without first binding the strong man. In order to cast out demons, a stronger power must bind those demons and then free the person of the demon. Jesus was making it clear to them that He was doing these things by the Spirit of God. He was doing these things because He had greater power than Satan. He was telling them that He was God.

(Mark 3:27) "But no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house."

In Matthew's parallel account, we learn that Jesus had just cast out a demon from a man who was blind and mute. After casting out the demon, the mute man spoke and saw. The crowds, the seekers, said, "This cannot be the Son of David, can he?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said that He did it by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons. Matthew gives the same logical argument that Mark records, but he added one additional comment. Jesus said, "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." That was the point that Jesus was driving home to them. Jesus was a greater power than Satan and that He was God. The kingdom of God is the rule and reign of God. Jesus was God and He was demonstrating to them the kingdom of God. These scribes had rejected Jesus as Messiah, but Jesus is still trying to help them see and understand who He is.

(Matt 12:22-28) "Then a demon-possessed man *who was* blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw. {23} All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?" {24} But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons....{28} "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

The final point that Jesus drove into this dialogue was about the unpardonable sin. Many people wonder what the unpardonable sin is. There were times before I became a Christian that I took the Lord's name in vain. There were definitely times when I blasphemed Jesus and Christianity. I am glad that Jesus pleaded with the Pharisees and scribes and kept reaching out to them. God reached out to me when I was a scoffer and I am glad that He never stopped loving me or reaching out in love to me.

(Mark 3:28-30) "Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; {29} but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— {30} because they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

Jesus said that all sins will be forgiven the sons of men. I give thanks daily for His forgiveness and grace in my life. We should take time to thank Him for all the benefits that we have in Christ, and forgiveness is a big one. Then Jesus said, "But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin." Jesus was making it clear to them that He was God, and He was doing this by the Spirit of God. If they were not going to receive Him as the Messiah, the Son of God, then their sins would not be forgiven. Jesus, the Lamb of God, came to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). There is no other name given among men by which we can be saved (Acts 4:12). If they were going to reject Him, there was no other way for them to be forgiven of their sins. The unpardonable sin is to reject Jesus Christ. All other sins

can be forgiven, but if we reject Christ, we will be guilty of an eternal sin. What do you say about Jesus? The scribes said that Jesus was possessed by Beelzebul and casting out demons by the ruler of the demons. They had clearly rejected Jesus.

3. Saved: You Are Lord

Just as Jesus finished speaking to the scribes, His mother and His brothers arrived at the house. In Mark 6:3 we find out that Jesus had four brothers, James, Joses, Judas, and Simon. He also had some sisters, but we do not know their names or how many He had. So, Mary and His four brothers arrived at the door and sent word to Him that they were there.

(Mark 3:31) “Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent *word* to Him and called Him.”

(Mark 6:3) “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?” And they took offense at Him.”

Remember that the crowds were so big that they could not even eat, so the house was packed full of seekers and scoffers. They sent word to Him. I imagine it was kind of like telephone. One person passed it on to the next person who passed the message on to the next person. I think it was so crowded that people could not freely move about. When they told Jesus that His mother and brothers were outside, He said, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” Then, Jesus looked around at all those sitting around Him. He was looking at the same people that had just accused Him of being possessed by Satan and casting out demons by the power of the ruler of the demons. Then Jesus said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

(Mark 3:31-35) “Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent *word* to Him and called Him. {32} A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You.” {33} Answering them, He said, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” {34} Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! {35} For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

Jesus made a strong point. Being physically related to Him did not get somebody into the kingdom of God. His mother and brothers were physically related, but that did not get them saved. Those who related to Him are those who do the will of God. What is the will of God? In John 6:40, Jesus said, “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” It is the will of God for people to see Jesus and believe in Him. Those that believe in Jesus are doing the will of God, and they will have eternal life. Jesus was telling the Seekers and the Scoffers that they need to believe in Him in order to have their sins forgiven and have eternal life. Those that do the will of God will become part of the family of God. Those that are saved have made Jesus Lord and are doing the will of God.

(John 6:40) “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

At that time, Jesus' brothers were not believers. In John 7:2-5, His brothers told Him to go into Judea so that His disciples could see His works. They told Him to go show Himself to the world. Then it says, "For not even His brothers were believing in Him."

(John 7:2-5) "Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. {3} Therefore His brothers said to Him, "Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. {4} For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be *known* publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." {5} For not even His brothers were believing in Him."

When Jesus was on the cross, John records that Jesus saw His other and the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "Woman, behold, your son!" Jesus was entrusting the care of His other to John. From that hour, John took Mary into his own household. Jesus did not entrust His mother to His half brothers, but to John. His brothers were still not believers at this time, and Jesus wanted to make sure that His mother had a proper spiritual covering.

(John 19:26-27) "When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" {27} Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own *household*."

Something happened after Jesus was crucified and resurrected. He revealed Himself to more than five hundred people and somewhere between the cross and Pentecost, Jesus' brothers became not believers. In Acts 1:14, we find that Mary and His brothers were continually devoting themselves to prayer. They had become believers and now they were active in the church.

(Acts 1:14) "These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with *the* women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."

His brother James eventually became the leader of the church in Jerusalem. James wrote the book of James. Jesus' brother, Jude, wrote the book of Jude. Even though His brothers were not part of the family of God in our text today, they would eventually place their faith in Jesus and would become part of the family of God. What do the saved say? They say that Jesus is Lord and they do His will.

Conclusion and Applications

I started today by telling you how Mike Haley spoke to three groups of people. There were three groups of people in our passage today: Seekers, Scoffers, and Saved. If you are a Seeker that is seeking after God, let me encourage you to continue seeking Him. He promises that you will find him if you seek Him with all your heart. If you have come to the place in your journey that you have found Him and want to receive Him into your life, let me give you an opportunity right now. Pray with me. "Father God, I believe that Jesus came and died for our sins. I believe that You raised Him from the dead. I ask You to come into my life and to forgive me of my sins. Jesus, I want to confess You as Lord of my life. In Jesus' name I pray." If you prayed that, let me assure you that He has come into your life. My encouragement to you is to continue seeking Him. Your pursuit of God does not end when you receive Him. Let me encourage you to seek His will in Your life. That is what confessing Him as Lord is. Let me also encourage you to tell someone else what you have just done this morning.

There may be others here today that identify more with the scoffers. Know that Jesus reached out to the scoffers. God is patient and His desire is for all men to be saved and that none should perish. I was a scoffer. I was not seeking God. I was one who mocked and ridiculed those who were following Christ. But, God sought after me. He had people pray for me and reach out to me. God softened my heart and revealed Himself to me. I want to pray for you this morning. "Father God, thank You for pursuing me and reaching out to me when I was not at all interested in You. Thank You for coming into my life and changing my life. I am forever grateful. Now Father, I ask You to reveal Yourself to those that are not seeking You. I ask You to put loving Christians in their life that they will know that You are God and they are Your disciples. Draw them to Yourself. I ask this in Jesus' name.

There may be others here today that are Saved, but you are struggling with God's will for your life. There may be those whose house is divided and each wants his or her own way. I want to encourage you this morning to confess again that Jesus is Lord. It is not a one-time prayer, but a lifetime of living for Him. Confess Him as Lord and present yourself as a living and holy sacrifice. Consecrate your life to Him this morning. Ask Him to reveal His will to you and determine in your heart that you will do whatever He is calling you to do. I want to pray for you this morning. "Father God, I ask You to reveal Your will to Your people. I ask You to give them a desire and willingness to follow You and to do Your will. I ask You to confirm Your will. Father, where there are divided houses, I ask You to heal those divisions. I ask You to bond together those homes. I ask You to convict of selfishness and selfish desires and fill those homes with love. Bond these home together in love. I pray this in Jesus' name."

"Father, I pray for You to use all of us this coming week. I ask You to protect Your people. I ask You to bless Your people. I ask You to fill us with Your love so that the world will know that we are Your disciples. I ask You to unify us so that the world will know that You sent Jesus here to die for our sins. Father, You said that You chose us that we might bear fruit, so I ask You to help us have a fruitful week. I ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Introduction (Mark 3:20-35)

1. **Seekers: Show Me** (Mark 3:20-21, 3:7-8, Deut 4:29, Jer 29:13, 1 Cor 14:24-25)

2. **Scoffers: You Are Not God** (Mark 3:22-30, 2 Kings 1:1-3, Josh 24:15, Gen 2:24, Col 3:14, 1 Cor 13:4-7, John 17:20-21, John 13:34-35, Gen 11:1-8, Matt 12:22-28, John 1:29, Acts 4:12)

3. **Saved: You Are Lord** (Mark 3:31-35, 6:3, John 6:40, 7:2-5, John 19:26-27, Acts 1:14)

Conclusion and Applications