

# *Alêtheia Christian Fellowship*

*September 22, 2019*

## *“Demonology Class?”*

*8:00 ~ Service - Communion is for all Christians*

*9:30 ~ Fellowship & Adult Sunday school*

*10:30 ~ Service with the King's Kid's - Communion is for all Christians*

### *NEWS*

Chili Cookoff and Pumpkin Palooza, Saturday, October 19, at 6:00pm

330 N. Somers Rd. (Mail: PO Box 10626) Kalispell, MT 59904~ (406) 755-1776

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1) In the example, what is the “unclean spirit”?

2) In the example, what is the “house”?

3) Did Jesus brush aside the Commandment to honor your father and your mother?

**MATTHEW 12:43-45** ~ <sup>43</sup>NASB“Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. <sup>44</sup>“Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came’; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. <sup>45</sup>“Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.”

This is not a lesson on demonology or \_\_\_\_\_. Christianity is \_\_\_\_\_ when we misapply Scripture. This whole chapter is driving one main \_\_\_\_\_.

This is an \_\_\_\_\_, to challenge the people interacting with Jesus to choose.

“That is the way it will also be with this evil generation” is the point of applicability. Just before it, “The last state of that man becomes worse than the first” is the \_\_\_\_\_ they are to apply.

Jesus was saying, you are \_\_\_\_\_ of the Kingdom of Heaven right now. To you it is a great \_\_\_\_\_, but if you don't fully embrace Me and My Message, your condition afterward, will be far worse than it ever was before.

That sub-point enhances and bolsters the main point of the chapter.

There are only \_\_\_\_\_ possible positions.

Therefore, as God said through Joshua, “Choose today Whom you will serve.” Choose today, because there are no guarantees about \_\_\_\_\_. It will either be God, or it will be \_\_\_\_\_.

An “Unclean spirit,” is an angel who \_\_\_\_\_ against God - otherwise known as a fallen angel, or an evil spirit, or a demon.

Satan relies on his vast demon army to further his \_\_\_\_\_. Demons are specialized, at least at times.

Luke 13:11, Mark 9:25, I Kings 22:22–23; II Chronicles 18:20-22, Isaiah 19:14, 29:10, Hosea 4:12; 5:4, I Chron 10:13; II Chron 33:6

Familiar spirits are those demons who \_\_\_\_\_ as the spirits, or ghosts of deceased people.

That's only partially why seeking to \_\_\_\_\_ with the dead is forbidden by God.

When it comes to spiritual warfare, I recommend realizing that there is a \_\_\_\_\_ raging and everyone is on one side, or the other.

Next, remember the "Seven sons of Sceva" (Acts 19:14-16).

Add to that I John 4:4b, the "One," is Jesus who has overcome the world (John 16:33). "The world," is ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ his team & agenda (John 12:31).

When evil comes against you remember that you are covered by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

The example isn't about the demon - it's about the condition of the house.

Jesus called it "The unclean spirit." It could refer to the House of \_\_\_\_\_ (Zechariah 13:2).

*Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.*

*God Bless You!*

**MATTHEW 12:46-50** ~ <sup>46</sup>NASB While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. <sup>47</sup>Someone said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You." <sup>48</sup>But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" <sup>49</sup>And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Behold My mother and My brothers! <sup>50</sup>"For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

This makes a lot of folks uneasy. Some even use it to disparage Jesus, saying He violated the Commandment (Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16).

Mark chapter 3 sheds light. In verse 6, powerful people want Jesus dead. Verse 21, "To seize," is the verb κρατέω (křä-tě-ō): \_\_\_\_\_  
"Is out of His mind," is the verb ἐξίστημι (ěx-ēs-tā-mē): \_\_\_\_\_  
"Family," or "Friends," is παρ' αὐτοῦ (päř ōw-tü): \_\_\_\_\_

His family had no compunction about interrupting Him because they were there to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus. He knew and so used the opportunity to make a vital point... Nothing at all matters in being a Kingdom of Heaven person, except obeying God.

That is simultaneously the exclusivity & inclusivity of Christianity.

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Check all that apply – detach and place in the offering or the prayer box

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to talk with the pastor about \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I want prayer for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to volunteer to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I want more information about \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Alêtheia ~ Matthew 12e ~ 092219

*Welcome Friends*

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO  
**MATTHEW**  
A CLASH OF KINGDOMS

*Alêtheia Christian Fellowship*

In order to understand what comes next, we must keep the context in mind. Remember how we got here, remember the overall point being made, remember the circumstances and know that God's Word functions as a narrative moving from one element logically to the next.

So many people take the passage we will address today as a standalone teaching. I cannot stress enough... That is not the case.



Matthew 12:43-45 ~ 43NASB“Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. 44“Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came’; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. 45“Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.”

In keeping with what I already said, the first and most important thing I can say right now, is, contrary to popular opinion, this is not a lesson on demonology or

exorcism. I know it seems like it, I know many people take it that way, but it is not true.

We distort Christianity when we misapply Scripture. For 42 verses leading up to these 3 verses, and for several more verses afterward, Matthew is driving home a point.

The Apostle hand selected by Jesus and ordained by the Father to write this Gospel under the Divine Inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is ordering the material in such a way as to expertly establish a principle that is vital to grasp. Getting bogged down in the details distracts us from God's purpose.

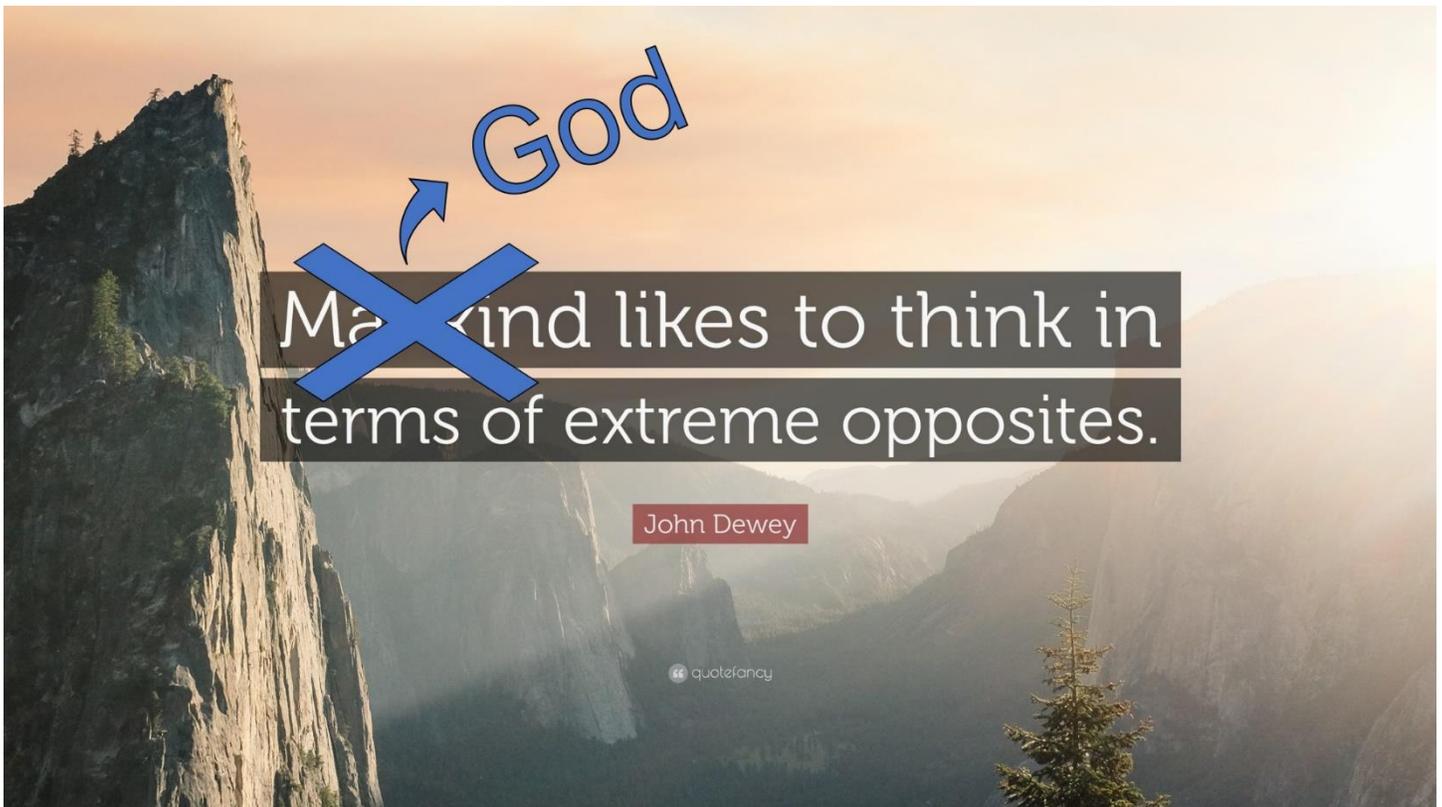
The last half of verse 45, says it all my friends. Jesus talked about exorcism, the expelled demon and repossession on a larger scale, as an example, in order to directly challenge the people interacting with Jesus back then.

The last sentence explicitly states, "That is the way it will also be with this evil generation." That's the point of applicability - that's to whom the example is directed...

The entire point is made just before that sentence, “The last state of that man becomes worse than the first.”

In context, Jesus was saying to the people there, you are tasting of the Kingdom of Heaven right now. To you it is a boon - it is all tea and crumpets and a good time. Healing, exorcism, interesting teaching and drama with the religious leaders - you are all getting a benefit by being around Me, but if you don't fully embrace Me, get completely onboard My program, jump into this Kingdom with both feet, accept Me like there's no tomorrow... Your condition afterward, will be far worse than it ever was before you met Me.

That is the point in this passage, which functions as a sub-point, enhancing and bolstering the central thesis, the primary principle, the main point of the entire chapter.



Again, that is that there are only two possible positions. One is either in the Kingdom of Heaven or one is in the kingdom of Satan. That's it, no other possibility exists, either for humans, or for supernatural beings.

Jesus was essentially telling the people in front of Him that day, all you who are experiencing the benefits of association with Me now. Whether physical healing, spiritual exorcism, emotional encouragement, mental renewal, sacred teaching... Whatever goodness you are gleaning, unless you fully commit and enter the Kingdom of Heaven... Your eternal situation will be far worse than if you had never heard My name.

As God said through Joshua, “Choose today Whom you will serve,” Whom you will worship. Choose today, because there are no guarantees about tomorrow. Choose today Whom you will serve, and worship, and love, and be dedicated to, and live your life for... It will either be for the Lord God Almighty, the Heavenly Father, through Jesus the Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit... Or it will be you. You, yourself, which is the same as the Original Sin, the same as agreeing with the Serpent of Old and being in league with him and his anti-god, good is evil and evil is good, agenda.

Please keep that foremost in your mind as we take a little closer look.



An “Unclean spirit,” is assumed to be one of the angels who rebelled against God at the instigation of Lucifer - otherwise known as a fallen angel, an evil spirit, or a demon.

Since Satan is neither omniscient, omnipresent nor omnipotent, he relies on his vast demon army to further his agenda. Demons are specialized, at least at times.

Sometimes they will act as a “Spirit of infirmity” (Luke 13:11), a “Deaf and mute spirit” (Mark 9:25), a “Lying spirit” (I Kings 22:22–23; II Chronicles 18:20-22), a “Perverse spirit” (Isaiah 19:14), a “Spirit of deep sleep” (Isaiah 29:10), a “Spirit of harlotry” (Hosea 4:12; 5:4),

and some act as “Familiar spirits,” (I Chronicles 10:13; II Chronicles 33:6). Familiar spirits are those demons who masquerade as the spirits, or ghosts of deceased people.

When someone goes to a spirit medium to communicate with the dead, what they get is either a scam, or a demon pretending to be the lost loved one. That’s only partially why doing so is forbidden by God.

Some people overthink and over-focus on the demon world. Satanic forces are at work, they are actively opposed to God and everything that belongs to Him, including Christians.

As a bona fide Child of the Living God (I John 3:2), indwelt by Christ (Ephesians 3:17), filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), and bearing the Seal of God on your forehead (Revelation 9:4), you are at war with the demonic, whether you like it, or not.

There is a stone-cold reality that goes with that truth... Jesus has already conquered Satan and all who stand with him.

When it comes to spiritual warfare, I recommend realizing that there is a war raging and everyone is on one side, or the other... “If you’re not with Me, you’re actively against Me,” Jesus said.

Next, remember the incident with the “Seven sons of Sceva” (Acts 19:14). These dudes were Jewish exorcists and decided to use the Name of Jesus as part of their repertoire. We pick up the action in Acts 19:15&16, 15NIV One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

Along with that take, I John 4:4b, 4bNIV The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

The “One,” is Jesus who has overcome the world (John 16:33). “The world,” is ultimately Satan and his entire team (John 12:31).

Whenever supernatural evil comes against you and says to you, “Well, I know Jesus, and I’ve heard about the Apostle Paul, but who are you?” You simply

respond, “I am no one, but He who dwells within me has already defeated you, your boss and your entire camp. I am covered by the Blood of Jesus, get behind me.”

Even though we get a sense of which it is when we meet people, we cannot physically see the Mark of the Beast, or the Seal of God that all humans possess, but the demons see. They completely understand. Fear not, they can do nothing to anyone with the Seal of God, that God does not specifically allow.

Therefore, I don't get too focused on demonology and exorcism. I get focused on focusing on Jesus. As long as you do that, you have nothing to fear.

By definition, a Christian cannot be demon possessed - their house, so to speak, is occupied by Christ. So, when it comes to exorcism, the key is to get the individual to accept Christ and become a Christian, filled with the Holy Spirit, thereby pushing any demons out simultaneously.



Jesus is using this example to make the point that, if you don't fully commit to Him as His disciple, not only does it do no good to hang around Him, it is actually far worse, than just being the straight up evil person you really are.

If you're going to be a Christian - be a Christian with everything you've got. - it's all or nothing with Jesus. If you're going to reject Christ, please do it with gusto. Please go crazy, have fun with it, do it up bigly! You've only got a few short years and then you'll be swimming with your buddy Satan in a Lake of Fire, so live it up while you can. Your credo should be "No Ragrets." Don't regret even one letter, "Ya know what I'm sayin'?"

Jesus said, “Count the cost.” It’s worse to try Christianity on and then bail out, than it is to have never tried at all.



The example Jesus used, is just that, an example, but at the same time, there is nothing here to suggest that it was fictitious, imaginary or in any way misleading. His example, while hypothetical, was in keeping with spiritual reality.

So, while this is just an example to make His point and not a teaching on demons and possession, it is nonetheless real.

Yet, we can glean a few concepts from the example He chose.

An Apple and an orange are often used as anti-analogous. “Don’t compare apples and oranges.” 1) If you had never seen an apple before, but were well acquainted with oranges, I could use that to help you picture an apple. They are about the same size, they both grow on trees, they’re both fruit, you eat them, etc. 2) Even though oranges are real, I would not be talking about oranges - I would be trying to teach you about apples. 3) If you push my apples are like oranges analogy too far, it will give false information about apples. 4) Even so, after you understand what I want you to know about apples, you could go back and glean information about oranges, if you were careful.



When a demon is cast out of a human host, the demon, for lack of a better word, is homeless.

He travels where demons travel. He does what demons do, which is to look for work - any anti-God work that is suited to him. The demon is restless until he is gainfully employed again.

When the demon checks on his old job/residence and finds it unoccupied, he is overjoyed at his good fortune and probably angry he had to leave in the first place, so he recruits many other friends to join him.

Please notice, the story really isn't about the demon at all - it is about the condition of the house. - which is explicitly defined as the "Person."

The most important point regarding demonology is that a house once occupied by evil that has been expelled, that then remains empty, as in, no Holy Spirit occupant, is a house that demons find irresistible.

The most important point for our Gospel is that there are only two camps and even though these people, we would call seekers are visiting God's camp and getting some benefit from Jesus, if they don't become full-fledged residents of His camp, they will ultimately be far worse off than they ever were before they visited.

For us the principle is similar. The seekers, the hangers on, the visitors, the pretend Christians do gain some benefit from their association with the church, but unless they become real Christians, their fate will be far worse than if they had never bothered with Christianity.

The, use Christianity as long, and as far, as it gives you a better life here and now, routine, will not get anyone into Heaven, barely into Heaven, or partially to Heaven.

As a friend used to say, “You can’t play fast and loose with Jesus.”

Why is it worse? Partially because “To him who much is given, much is required” (Luke 12:48).



Another way to interpret is to notice that Jesus calls it “The unclean spirit,” not an unclean spirit, not unclean spirits in general, but “The unclean spirit.” Zechariah 13:2, 2NASB “It will come about in that day,” declares the Lord of hosts, “that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered; and I will also remove the (false) prophets and the unclean spirit from the land.

It is possible that what Jesus was actually referring to had nothing at all to do with demons possessing people, but of “The unclean spirit” of apostasy and unfaithfulness dwelling in the house of Israel.

Messiah had come and had defeated “The unclean spirit,” but if Israel wouldn’t repent and embrace their Messiah, their fate would be far worse in the end.

Take it how you like, because the thrust of the point is the same, whether for Israel, or for the Jews standing around Jesus back then, or for all people throughout time... The point is the same.

You must choose sides is a way we say it, but a better way, is you must choose to change sides, or you will perish on the side of evil. That gives the proper urgency... Change to Jesus’ side, or die eternally.

Jesus wasn’t playing. Look what He bluntly said, “That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.”



"No, I do not think it's a trenchant allegory for loneliness.  
I think you're terrible salespeople!"

Finally, and I really hate to do it, but I think it's important. There is another very common way this passage is interpreted by Christians today. We need to talk about it for a moment.

It is an allegorical interpretation put forward in about 150 A.D. by Valentinus. Valentinus was born in Egypt in 100 A.D. and was in the running to be named the Bishop of Rome. When another was chosen instead, he went off the rails and ended up leading a breakaway gnostic cult. He believed in the individual gaining control over their sins through secret wisdom.

He allegorically interpreted this passage as “The unclean spirit,” being sin itself and as the “Person/House” being the human heart of a Christian. See how allegorically we make one thing stand for another? The demon is not a demon, but sin. And the person/house is not a person, or Israel - it is the Christian individual.

The idea was expanded on in various ways by Augustine, Jerome, and Chrysostom, 1,600 years ago and has lived on ever since.

Basically, the belief is that every Christian must be extra vigilant, or the sin of their former life will return with a vengeance and they will be lost.

First, the text cannot support such an interpretation. Second, such an interpretation ends up promoting a legalistic and a self-focused form of Christianity, that has often been used by the church to control people.

I recommend we take God’s Word as intended. If you want passages about Christians being vigilant - there are plenty of legitimate ones to choose from, like Philippians 2:12, “Work out their salvation with fear and trembling.”

Matthew 12:46-50 ~ fifth commandment ~

46NASBWhile He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. 47Someone said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.” 48But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” 49And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! 50“For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

As told here, this incident and subsequent teaching, makes a lot of folks uneasy. Some people even use it to disparage Jesus, saying He is violating the Commandment to “Honor your father and your mother” (Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16).



To help, let's look at Mark chapter 3. Even in Nazareth, about 30 miles southwest of Capernaum by road, the people were buzzing about Jesus and the things He was teaching and doing.

As everywhere, some people had positive comments, and some people had negative comments. The real problem, was those with the negative comments, were people who had the power to do something about Jesus. Mark 3:6, 6NLT At once the Pharisees went away and met with the supporters of Herod to plot how to kill Jesus.

In response, we have Mark 3:21, 21ESV And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”

The phrase “To seize,” is the verb κρατέω (křä-tě-ō) meaning to “Take custody of,” to “Arrest,” to “Deprive of freedom,” or to “Take charge of,” as in Matthew 26:57a, 57aNASB Those who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest.

The “Is out of His mind,” bit is the verb ἐξίστημι (ěx-ěs-tā-mē), which is literally to “Stand outside of yourself.” We have a similar phrase, “To be beside yourself.” We take that to mean, so full of emotion you are nearly out of control. The slight difference here, is while also meaning to be somewhat out of control, it is because you are crazy, confused, bewildered, or insane.

These people want to arrest Jesus, basically tie Him up and carry Him home for His own protection, because they think He’s dazed and confused, crazily out of control. Bluntly, they think He’s going to get Himself murdered, because He’s lost His marbles.

I laid it out this way, because later in church history there evolved such a reverence for Jesus’ family. The

veneration of His brothers, especially James and Jude who both wrote Bible Books, and Simon who led the church from Jerusalem to Pella before its destruction 70 A.D. Then of course the elevation of His mother Mary to near, or in some cases, actual divinity.

According to the Catholic Church, Mary is the only person ever born of two parents, without Original sin. She is the only woman in human history to be a mother and also a Perpetual Virgin, for eternity, perfectly pure, never consummating her marriage to Joseph. She's the only one to be Assumed, alive, bodily, directly into Heaven, to make intercession with her Son. She is the only one Jesus cannot refuse, cannot disobey, besides the Heavenly Father.

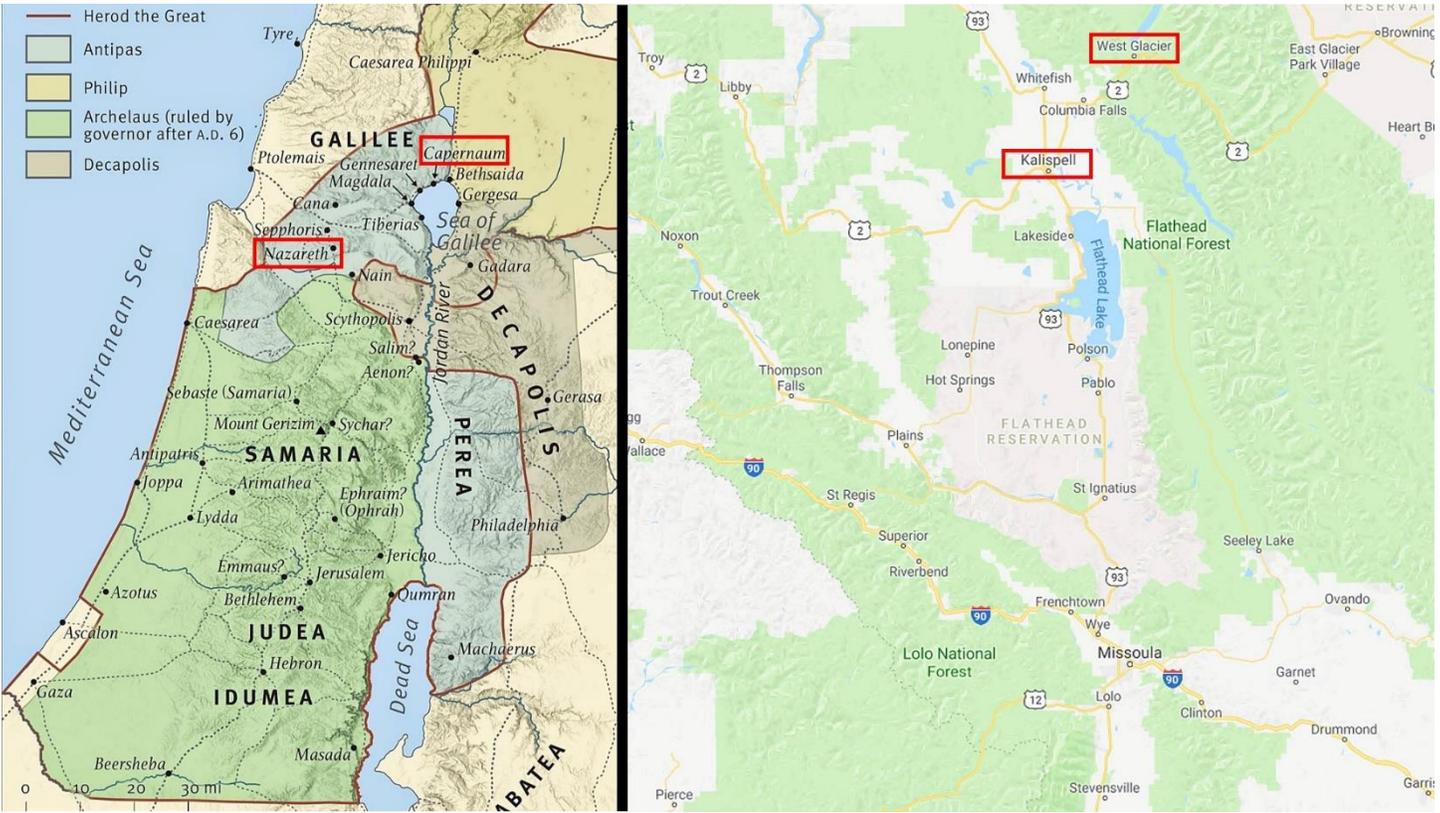
Because of that, many have tried to soften Mark 3:21, and the best way is to ignore the context and retranslate as the KJV does... Mark 3:21, 21KJV And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.

The word, "Family," is replaced by the word, "Friends," or something similar. The Greek phrase underlying the word is παρ' αὐτοῦ (pä` öw-tü), it means those very close to you and in some cases could legitimately be

translated as “Friends.” Here the context demands, “Family.” The only reason anyone would change it is if they found it objectionable to think of Jesus’ family as being human... As being worried about Him... As being somewhat embarrassed by Him... As being a little fearful of being endangered because of Him.

We know they all became wonderful Christian pillars in time, but at this point they were just as confused about what Jesus was saying and doing as the rest.

Realistically, Mary, His worried mother, probably told her other sons, we must go immediately to Capernaum, get Jesus, and bring Him home, before someone does kill Him. Humanly speaking, she was right.



By the time they arrived in Capernaum (again, 30 miles by road, hoofing it all the way), Jesus was in an inner room of the house that He was using as His base of operation. The crowd pressing in to hear and see Him was so big, no one could get through. People were packed in like proverbial sardines.



Word got passed along through the crowd and someone near Jesus told Him, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.”

Get the scene... Jesus is teaching and healing people, they're pressing in, dropping people down from the roof, He's ministering to them. “Hey, Jesus, your family is outside, and they want a word - now.” Jesus was probably thinking, “I'm in the middle of something, Ray.”

His family has no compunction about interrupting Him because familiarity breeds contempt, but also,

ironically, they are eager to save Him. They are there to save Jesus. To save Him from Himself.

Jesus knows full-well why they've made the journey and He uses the opportunity to make a vital point. Nothing at all matters in being a Kingdom of Heaven person, except obeying God.



To be a Child of God, to be a Christian, to be a Disciple of Christ, it doesn't matter what your family connections are, it doesn't matter what position you hold in society, it doesn't matter how much money, power and influence you possess.

Your gender, your culture, your ethnicity, your political affiliation, your skin color, your whatever else you can name - none of it means anything at all. The one and only thing that matters is that you “Do the Will of God.” That you “Hear God’s Word and put it into practice.” that you “Obey the Heavenly Father.” That is the only thing that can change anyone’s eternity.

Jesus’ human mother Mary will be with us in Heaven forever, not because she carried Him for nine months and gave birth to Him and raised Him and was deeply concerned about Him for His entire earthly life... Mary will be our sister eternally because she herself obeyed God the Heavenly Father by believing and putting into practice His testimony through the Holy Spirit concerning her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Just as we must.

That is simultaneously the exclusivity and inclusivity of Christianity. Christianity, which is “Doing the of our Father in Heaven,” is completely open to all - anyone can obey God by accepting Jesus... Anyone at all - no restrictions whatsoever - completely inclusive. God’s love poured out through Jesus’ Blood extends to all.

Yet, obedience to God by accepting Jesus is the one and only way to be a Christian and to be a Christian is the one and only way into the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus said, "I AM the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Jesus is the only way to Heaven - that is completely exclusive. Truth, by definition, is exclusive. If it were all-inclusive nothing would be false - there would be no Truth.

In verse 50, Jesus made the teaching universally applicable. What was for the people around Him then, was made valid for all. He said, "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

That is the final sub-point in this chapter making and enhancing and bolstering the central thesis, primary principle, and main point, that there are only two possible positions. One is either in the Kingdom of Heaven, or one is in the kingdom of Satan. That's it, no other possibility exists.

To which Kingdom do you belong? If not the fully obedient to the Father, Spirit filled disciple of Jesus Kingdom... Can you be absolutely certain that you will

you have time in the future to get that right? Are you willing to bet your life on it? Are you willing to bet your eternity on it?