**Sermon Notes**

**“The Strong Man’s Family”**

Mark 3:20–35 (NIV)

20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. 21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.” 22 And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.” 23 So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. 26 And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. 27 In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man’s house. 28 Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.” 30 He said this because they were saying, “He has an impure spirit.” 31 Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.” 33 “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked. 34 Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

**Sermon Notes**

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What insight from the message left the biggest impression on you? Why?

2. What is the significance of Jesus using a parable of a plundering thief as a metaphor of his rescuing grace? If we as Christians are called to follow Jesus, how does this parable challenge us to see our role each day as Christians?

3. What have you traditionally understood the “eternal” or “unforgivable sin” to be? Did Jeff’s explanation help you better understand Jesus’ warning and relevance to people today?

4. Why do you think the religious leaders were so resistant to Jesus’ message, especially when they were eye witnesses to incredible miracles and transformative teaching? What does this tell us about the human heart?

5. Jesus’ family was embarrassed by Jesus’ growing ministry. In what ways have you experience rejection or shame from those who should have supported you in your life as a Christian?

6. How would you paraphrase Jesus’ statement “Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother”?

7. In what ways do you have to grow in your responsibility as a spiritual brother/sister/mother/father/etc. within our church?