

How To Stand When Others Don't Understand

Mark 3:13,20-30 And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.

20 And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. 21 And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself. 22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils. 23 And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand. 26 And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end. 27 No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house. 28 Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: 29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: 30 Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.

I. Know who you are

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A. Jesus' family misunderstood His mission

- They tried to take charge of Him

- His parents did not understand His purpose

Luke 2:49-51 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? 50And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. 51And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

- But you can't let even well-meaning people take control forever
- When it's time to move into God's purpose then it's time to move

I have a friend that wants to start a church. He has been a faithful member of the congregation for years. He and the pastor are in agreement that he should start a church. But he's still working at the main church.

- He needs a break and to turn his focus on his new work, otherwise it will never amount to anything
- He has got to take charge of it

1. You've got to take charge of your ministry
 - You know what God has called you to do
 - Now it's up to you to take on the responsibility
 - To stand on your own

B. His family misunderstood His preaching

1. They thought He was out of His mind
 - Sometimes even well-meaning people will try to stop you

- Missionary story – how can I stop preaching, when so many don't know Jesus?

C. Jesus knew who He was

- His family didn't understand
- His parents didn't get it
- His siblings didn't get it
- His friends didn't get it

(1) But Jesus knew who He was

(2) He stood up when everyone around was telling him to sit back down

(3) When He answered His calling, others listened to His message – even to the multitudes climbing a mountain to listen to Him

II. Face your criticism

22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

A. Religious leaders accused Jesus of being possessed

1. They claimed he was under the influence of Beelzebub

- This is another term for Satan
- They were literally accusing Jesus of working for the Devil.

(1) Ever noticed that there's lots of "names" for the Devil

(2) Lucifer, Beelzebub, Belial, Satan

(3) But there is only ONE name for Jesus!

2. They were trying to destroy His reputation
 - Who would listen to a man working for the Devil?
3. Those that should have been helping were attacking
 - Even church people can sometimes stab you in the back

B. Jesus faced their criticism

1. He didn't run away and hide
2. He didn't cry out in anger
3. He answered their criticism with facts and logic
 - Facts are facts – not opinions or ideas, but verifiable, understandable facts

III. Follow the Spirit

28 Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: 29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: 30 Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.

A. Do not resist His counsel

1. Hearing the voice of the Holy Ghost means that you have a deep personal relationship with God
 - In a world full of noise, can you hear the still small voice of the Holy Ghost

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me

- My sheep, know my voice
 - (1) How do they know His voice?
 - (2) They have spent time listening to it
 - (3) So now their ears are attuned to the voice of their shepherd

(a) Is your spiritual ear attuned to your spiritual shepherd?

B. The Spirit's role is to guide you into all truth

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:

1. Notice that it's "all truth"

- Truth is not interested in "thoughts, opinions, or feelings"
- Truth tells it like it is
 - (1) Notice that it leads YOU into all truth
 - (2) You're not God, so don't put yourself on the judge's bench.
 - (3) Your heart and mind and you must be ready to accept what truth is telling you
 - (4) Truth says there is a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun
 - (5) Truth says – all liars shall have their part in the lake of fire
 - (6) Truth says – Holiness without which no man shall see God.
 - (7) Truth says to us – you know that's not right
 - (a) You know you shouldn't go there
 - (b) Say that, wear that, act like that, watch that, listen to that, etc.

C. Embrace God's forgiveness and point others to His forgiveness

1. But truth also says – all sins can be forgiven

- Whether it is a major or minor issue, all sins can be forgiven
- There is only one sin that cannot be forgiven, "Blaspheming the Holy Ghost"

- (1) What does that mean?
- (2) Blaspheme is to speak evil against
- (3) I believe that you blaspheme the Holy Ghost when you do not believe that Jesus Christ can save you from your sins
 - (a) You are basically calling Jesus a liar – blaspheming

2. Embrace God's forgiveness for you

- Even the scribes could have been forgiven but they rejected
- Forgiveness is for everyone
- Jesus was willing to forgive, even though they did not accept it.
 - (1) We must be willing to forgive even when it is not accepted.
 - (2) A root of bitterness will lead to our own downfall

IV. Stand

The first half of the New York City marathon is a party. 28000 other runners surround you and crowds are lining the streets cheering you on. You feel like you could run forever. At Mile 13 you cross over into Manhattan and the party is over!

At around mile 16 you hit the wall. You're absolutely miserable. Physically and psychologically you are busted. Bryan Wilkerson put it this way. I remember passing one of the first aid stations where runners were lying on cots, pale and gaunt.

Some even had IV's in their arms. In my mind I thought LUCKY DOGS. At that point I began to despair. I imagined myself going home and having to tell everyone that I didn't finish. Why did I ever sign up for this? What ever made me think that I could do it?

That's when it hit me. One way or another I had to get to Central Park. I had no car, no money for a cab, and no phone to call someone. Whether walking or

running I would have to get there on my own two feet. So I might as well keep on running. Just keep putting one foot in front of the other. Don't think about the next six miles just think about the next step.

Don't think about all those that have failed. Focus on those that have finished. Gradually the miles passed by and before you know it you're crossing that finish line. Whether you were first or 10,044th place does not matter, no one can take that glory from you.

You may feel like you are at the wall. Hit from every side, by all kinds of things. You may even be thinking about giving up or doing something foolish. Don't do it. Keep putting one foot in front of the other. Keep on going. Keep on standing. It's he that endures to the end, the same shall be saved.

- A. When family doesn't get it – stand
- B. When friends don't get it – stand
- C. When you are viscously criticized – stand
- D. When the enemy says you are weak – stand
- E. When you have been wronged – stand
 - 1. Let others do what they want, say what they want, go where they want,
 - 2. When others don't understand, I have decided to keep on standing!