

\*The Holy Spirit unites us to be one in faith, love, and spirit…

1. **Unity** cannot be at any cost.
2. **Unity** in the Kingdom of God comes from following the King.

This morning we will focus on this concept of “**A Divided Kingdom**” in verses 24-27.

This section of scripture (vss. 7 through 35) lends itself to 4 good divisions that some commentators have listed as the following…

1) Ministering to the multitudes (vss 7-12),

2) Commissioning the Twelve (vss 13-19),

3) Rebuking the Scribes and Pharisees (vss. 20-30), and

4) Identifying His Spiritual Family (vss. 31-35).

1. Ministering to the multitudes (vss 7-12)

*\*****Mark 3:7-12*** *Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. 8 When they heard about all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. 9 Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. 10 For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. 11 Whenever the impure spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." 12 But he gave them strict orders not to tell others about him.*

1. Commissioning the Twelve (vss 13-19)

***\*Mark 13-19*** *Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach 15 and to have authority to drive out demons. 16 These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), 17 James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder"), 18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot 19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. (NIV)*

\*If your focus is on what Jesus can do for you instead of who he is you won’t follow him for long.

We should unite around these truths:

1. **Jesus is a healer.**
2. **Jesus cleanses us from** our sins and delivers us from all our diseases.
3. **Jesus empowers** those he calls for the task ahead.
4. Rebuking the Scribes and Pharisees (vss. 20-30)

*\*Mark 3:20 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.(NIV)*

\*He came to His own and his own did not receive him. (John 1:11-12)

1. **The things your family can say against Jesus may divide you.**
2. **The things the religious people say against Jesus will divide you.**
3. **A kingdom divided will not stand.**
4. No home can make it if it’s divided
5. No church can make it if it’s divided.

*\*Mark 3:28 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."*

1. Identifying His Spiritual Family (vss. 31-35).

*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."*

\*Knowing and doing the will of God is the key to unity.

1. My first call is to be united with Christ.
2. My second priority is that I can be united with those who are likeminded in Christ.

This is key to unity among the believers in any setting, be it the home, the church, and even out in the community where unbelievers will be observing our conduct