

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Mark 3: 20-35

20. And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread, for they were tightly packed together with no room to move, and neighbour did rub against neighbour, and stranger against stranger, and there was much muttering and exclamation.
21. And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself and has lost the plot. But verily they did not understand and did see only the rubbing.
22. And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils. See ye not the dark cloud which surroundeth his head. And one did proclaim that he had a vision of smoke and horns, though he had been breathing in much incense.
23. And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan? And some of the scholars did protest saying, this is not a parable but a metaphor. But Jesus ignored them and said,
24. And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a party be divided against itself that movement cannot prosper.
25. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand, no matter whether it be built on rock or on sand.
26. And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end which shall be fire and smoke and flame and outer darkness.
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. And they said unto themselves, Speaketh him of this from experience? Who hath despoiled his house? And what has become of the table and chairs that I ordered?
28. And Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme, and naughty language and imagining.
29. But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.
30. And he addeth this because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.
31. There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And he did send a message asking them to cover themselves for he had been told they were without.
32. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee and knoweth not where to look, for the crowd is great and they cannot find an entrance.
33. And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And they did look at him with amazement, and some began to question if he had lost his mind, for his mother was well known to many, and his sisters likewise.
34. And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! And ignoring their raised eyebrows he proclaimed,
35. For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother, and my uncle and aunt, and my cousins whom can be reckoned up in dozens, for the land that is fertile has been ploughed deeply. (see Note)

Note: This last metaphor is dismissed by some as a later interpolation.