

Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life

Welcome

- Has your behaviour ever been called crazy or mad? Share stories if you dare...

Worship

- Let one person read Psalm 8 aloud.
- Give everyone 3 or 4 minutes to reread it a couple of times in their hearts.
- Let someone else read the Psalm aloud.
- Now let everyone share which word or phrase or verse most clearly spoke to them.
- Thank God for the Word spoken to you.

Word

Read Mark 3: 20 - 21

- Glancing back through chapter 3, for what reasons do Jesus' family wish to take charge of him, thinking him insane?
- Do you think people today might consider the words and actions of some inspired people to be crazy? Can you think of any examples? Might we want to stop them?

Read Mark 3: 22

- The teachers of the Law have another take on Jesus' 'crazy' actions. What would it feel like for your good intentions to be labelled 'demonic'?
- Can you think of any people or groups demonised by society, when in fact they are beloved of God?

Read Mark 3: 23 - 27

- Try to tease out the logic of Jesus' argument as he refutes the idea that a demon - albeit a high-ranking one - can drive out another demon.

Read Mark 3:28 - 30

Jesus says that those who blaspheme against the Holy Spirit are guilty of 'an eternal sin'. Verse 30 explains why Jesus said this - they are attributing the good work of Jesus to the work of an evil spirit.

- Discuss why this might be **intrinsicly** ‘unforgivable’ - at least if the attitude persists.

Read Mark 3: 31 - 35

- In certain circles, Jesus is described as being ‘pro-family’. Discuss!
- Who is included in Jesus’ family?
- A criterion for family membership is given in verse 35. Given that God’s will is always for the best, why do we find it hard to put it into practice? So on what basis are we still part of the family (recall verse 28)?
- Spiritually and theologically, is it really any different for people with mental health problems?

Response (group)

- Try to find three steps our church could take to be more accepting of people with mental health issues.
- Be ready to discuss them at a future church meeting.