

**GOSPEL PEARLS**

## Good and evil

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Jesus came home with his disciples.  
Again the crowd gathered,  
making it impossible for them even to eat.  
When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him,  
for they said, "He is out of his mind."  
The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said,  
"He is possessed by Beelzebul,"  
and "By the prince of demons he drives out demons."

Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables,  
"How can Satan drive out Satan?  
If a kingdom is divided against itself,  
that kingdom cannot stand.  
And if a house is divided against itself,  
that house will not be able to stand.  
And if Satan has risen up against himself  
and is divided, he cannot stand;  
that is the end of him.  
But no one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property  
unless he first ties up the strong man.  
Then he can plunder the house.  
Amen, I say to you,

all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them.

But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin."

For they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

His mother and his brothers arrived.

Standing outside they sent word to him and called him.

A crowd seated around him told him,

"Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside asking for you."

But he said to them in reply,

"Who are my mother and my brothers?"

And looking around at those seated in the circle he said,

"Here are my mother and my brothers.

For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

(Mk 3:20-35)