

scribes went one notch further, too far. They were fully convinced that Jesus was working for satan. He was possessed, they said. Jesus used the prince of demons to cast out demons, they confessed before the people. And they said it! That is what came out of their mouths, revealing what was going on in their hearts!!

- Their confession didn't really make sense, but for them, Jesus could not have been from God, not according to their own spiritual discernment, not according to their own gut feeling. They blamed Jesus to have an unclean spirit, so that they didn't have to admit, that Jesus' driving out demons was most certainly God at work!

- The family of Jesus was convinced that they meant it well with Jesus. They wanted Him to cool it down, to call off His mission, which would, in their eyes, in the end, destroy Him. They voiced their concern, and thereby confessed what they were thinking of Jesus, saying, 'He has gone crazy'! That was their confession. Jesus took this confession of theirs very seriously.

- Jesus counted their confession as blasphemy against the Son of God! We need to learn and realise, what we say about Jesus, Jesus takes as our confession! We cannot say or write loosely what we think about Jesus in public and think Jesus doesn't notice, as if it is not so important when it is not so accurate. Jesus takes any wrong confession as blasphemy, as sin.

- However, Jesus also says, there is forgiveness available for those who realise afterwards that they got it wrong, as did in fact happen with His biological family members, later on, after Jesus' Resurrection. After Jesus' Ascension we find Jesus' mother Mary and His brothers amongst those who were praying and waiting for the Day of Pentecost.

- Nevertheless, let us be super aware of the fact, that what we say about Jesus needs to be accurate. All the more is this true for us, because we have His Word written down for us in the NT Scriptures. We can and should make the effort to study His Word and then carefully choose our words when we speak about Jesus to others. If we get it wrong, for example messaging on social media, which is a public platform, we can do more harm than good!

- That is why our confessions which we speak in the Divine Service need to be correct, need to be right. Everything we say, sing and pray needs to be right. Every sentence needs to be backed up by the original intention of God's Word. That is why we don't all speak our own private confessions, but we stick to tried and tested confessions which have stood the test of time and scrutiny through many theological battles in the past. We speak these together with all other Christians, even across the different Confessions. Here a wonderful unity is showing itself in which we participate whenever we confess it together with all others around the globe, Sunday for Sunday.

- There are differences in understanding of what this confession means though, that is where we differ, mostly. These differences are important. We cannot say, how we