I. Slide#1 Announce:
   A. Slide#2 Pastor Saeed Abendini: Iranian-born American Pastor Saeed Abedini has been imprisoned in Tehran since Sept, and in a letter to his family reported beatings and death threats.
      1. The letter details his continued mistreatment in the deadly Evin Prison, including Iran's efforts to force him to convert from Christianity back to Islam. Pastor Saeed writes: “After all of these pressures, after all of the nails they have pressed against my hands and feet, they are only waiting for one thing...for me to deny Christ.” Yet he is standing strong, declaring "they will never get this from me.” Now is the time to redouble our efforts to save this courageous pastor, this U.S. citizen, from the darkness of an Iranian prison.

   a) Slide#3 Help ACLJ.org get to 300,000 signatures before our attorneys meet with U.N. Human Rights officials on March 5.
      (1) Last week, more than 80 members of Congress - in a strong bi-partisan move – sent a letter to Secretary of State Kerry urging him to “exhaust every possible option to secure Mr. Abedini’s immediate release.” Kerry has not responded to a congressional letter asking that he call for his release.

   b) Steve Keeney & Saeed's sister ZeZe will be in the info booth today if you would like to sign up for 1 day in prayer for her brother.

   B. Prayer: That Saeed will even more intimately know You. Have the power of Your Res. And experience the fellowship of Your sufferings.
      1. Father our desire is to dwell in Your presence; listen to Your voice; see Your beauty; be touched by Your Word; taste Your infinite goodness.

II. Slide#4 Intro:
   A. Slide#5 Illust: The following series of advertisements reportedly appeared in a daily newspaper:
      1. Slide#6 Monday: “The Rev. A.J. Jones has one color TV set for sale. Telephone 626–1313 after 7 p.m. and ask for Mrs. Donnelley who lives with him, cheap.”
      2. Slide#7 Tuesday: “We regret any embarrassment caused to Rev. Jones by a typographical error in yesterday’s paper. The ad should have read: ‘The Rev. A.J. Jones has one color TV set for sale, cheap...Telephone 626–1313 and ask for Mrs. Donnelley, who lives with him after 7 p.m.”
      3. Slide#8 Wednesday: “The Rev. A.J. Jones informs us that he has received several annoying telephone calls because of an incorrect ad in yesterday’s paper. It should have read: ‘The Rev. A.J. Jones has one color TV set for sale, cheap. Telephone 626–1313, after 7 p.m. and ask for Mrs. Donnelley who loves with him.”
4. **Slide#9 Thursday:** “Please take notice that I, the Rev. A.J. Jones, have no color TV set for sale; I have smashed it. Don’t call 626–1313 anymore. I have not been carrying on with Mrs. Donnelley. She was, until yesterday, my housekeeper.”

   
   a) **Mistakes** are inevitable in the publishing business. [while funny here, not funny in reg life]
   b) Jesus was often **Mistaken, Misunderstood & Misread**, which will be this morning **Outline**.

### III. Slide#11 **MISTAKEN (Ministry)** (20,21)

A. (20) Tie in to 19b.

B. (21) When His own people heard about this. Heard about what? Him not eating!

   1. **Slide#12a** They did love him...**but**, they thought He was a little bit **fanatical**. Kind of...well...crazy. Fixated w/faith. Over-enthusiastic.

   2. I think His diagnosis today would be “obsessive-compulsive”.
      a) He is out of His mind - Messiah complex?

   3. **Slide#12b** I believe this **“family intervention”** is what they really thought would be **best** for Him.
      a) He’s throwing away **security & safety**...we must take charge of him! - A well-meaning, but **mistaken** action!

   4. **They thought...This religious fervor was going to ruin His health!**
      a) Think of the reports they received last week...where that He almost got trampled...He even had to have a get-away boat!!! [family just traveled 25 m. from Naz]

      1) **Slide#12c** Jesus don’t you know, you could **lose your life doing this**!

      b) 1st He gave up a decent career in the carpentry union! – Then, look at the posse He’s running with. – We hear He sometimes stay up all night, w/no sleep! – And, He seems to be given to **extremes**! **It’s ok to be devout, but NOT fanatical**!

   5. **Jn.7:1-9** tells us that Jesus’ brothers were still not believing in Him, even later in His ministry.

C. These guys became the model for those who hold the **charitable opinion**, “Jesus was a **good man**, even a **great man**, but He is just mistaken about **who He is & what His mission is!**”

   1. **Slide#12d** But what is “good”, or “great”, or “wonderful” about a man who lies? (i.e. if He’s **not** the Son of God?) **That**, as C.S.Lewis would say, “**Is just patronizing nonsense!**”

   2. He is the Son of God, or else He’s **the devil himself** to claim such a claim & not be Him!
D. If you’ve been ever accused of being a Jesus freak, or too fanatical, or even mad…no worries…so was Paul, Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!" (Acts 26:24)

1. They thought Luther, Bunyan, Whitefield, & Wesley were mad.
2. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (Jn.15:19)

E. Jesus was Mistaken in His Ministry!

IV. Slide#13 MISUNDERSTOOD (Power) (22-30)

A. And now the Scribes turn up the heat!

B. The famous ACLU Trial Lawyer Clarence Darrow said (Bobby Franks Trial & the Scopes Monkey Trial), “I have suffered from being misunderstood, but I would have suffered a lot more if I had been understood.”

1. Though I don’t like this comparison, I wonder if Jesus would have said the same?
   a) What if they really understood Him as GOD in their midst?
2. Or as Ralph Waldo Emerson, “To be great is to be misunderstood.”
3. You also know what it’s like to be misunderstood!

C. Slide#14a (22) Beelzebub, the Philistine god of flies.

1. Was changed to Beelzebul, “god of dung”, and was used in a shameful way as a name of the devil.
2. Others prefer to derive the word from baal zebul, the “lord of the dwelling” in which evil spirits dwell.
   a) The fact that Jesus designates Himself as “master of the house” would seem to indicate that Beelzebul had a similar meaning.

D. Slide#14b (22b) Note: They couldn’t & didn’t deny his exorcisms. “…He casts out demons”.

1. In Mt.12:22-24 Jesus just healed a man that was demon-possessed, blind & mute.
   a) So the issue became, by what power He did it?
   b) NLT, He's possessed by Satan, the prince of demons. That's where he gets the power to cast out demons. [which makes about as much sense as a dog biting his own tail!]

E. Slide#14c (23) Jesus answers with logic-extraordinaire!

1. Here He drops 3 sticks of dynamite to explode their argument!
2. He proves how illogical this is:
3. If a kingdom (24) We call this civil war. A nation won’t last if it continues in this!
4. If a house (25) This is just as true domestically. Internal division tears a family apart
5. **If Satan** (26) Even the Devil knows his household must be **united**. He can’t be **divided against himself**.

F. **Slide#14d** (27) Now Jesus tells them exactly what just went on: [He uses a parable]

1. **The strong man is Satan.** - **His house** is the kingdom which he dominates here on earth. - **His possessions** are the helpless victims whom he holds in bondage through his demons. - **Now Jesus has bound him so that people can be set free!** (1 Jn.3:8)

G. Believer, good news. **Satan** is like a **dog on God’s leash**.

1. Ever walk by someone’s property where a dog is lying? Then he springs up & runs at you full speed, & at the last minute you realize he’s **chained** & running out of slack quickly, **then wham!**
   a) Col.2:15 NIV And having **disarmed** the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them by the cross**.

2. **Also remember**, **don’t give place to the devil** (Eph.4:27)
   a) Some Christians see where the rut in the ground is & often get as close as they can to it! - Some Christians actually take walks in his yard!!! - No, **don’t give him any place**.

H. **Slide#15a THE UNPARDONABLE SIN!** (28-30)

1. Even many of the un-churched have heard of this warning! But let’s not pass up one of the most wonderful & beautiful truth’s in all the bible…Slide#15b all sins (& blasphemies) will be forgiven the sons of men!
   1. So let’s hold off on the “**ONE**” that can’t be forgiven!

2. **Murder?** (check, ask Moses, David, Paul); **Sexual immorality?** (check, ask Judah w/ Tamar); **Drunkenness?** (check, ask Noah, & Lot); **Denying Christ?** (check, Peter).

3. And let’s not forget **Manasseh** who in 2 Chron.29:6 said, He sacrificed his sons in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger. [yet, God forgave him]
   a) Anyone’s sins guiltier than this list? (& that was a **partial** list!)

4. **Oh what wonderful forgiveness we find in Jesus!**
   a) 1 Jn.1:7 and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from **all sin**.

J. **Slide#15c Ok, let’s deal with the Blaspheme of the H.S.!**

1. **It is not**…cursing the H.S.; it is not taking of the Lord’s name in vain; it’s not calling Jesus demon possessed.

2. **It is very simply “the ongoing, continual rejection of the witness of the H.S. to the divinity & Saviorhood of Christ.”**

3. **It is not** an ignorant blasphemer, but instead one who has **heard, thought about, & rejected** the Spirits loving tugs upon their heart.
a) Isaiah described them well, they are those who have perverted all truth in their lives & they “call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”

4. So, this unforgivable sin is a deliberate & knowing rejection of Christ. It is not an isolated act but a willful attitude. It is not a sin that can be committed accidentally or knowingly. It is rather an indifference to sin, a cynical rejection of the grace of God.
   a) To which God has no other invitation!
   b) It is dangerous to hear the gospel & turn it down. To hear of Christ’s love & turn it down. To hear of forgiveness & turn it down...over & over again.

5. These Scribes were on the brink of committing this very sin.

6. If you are worried that you’ve committed it…then you obviously haven’t! (i.e. you wouldn’t be worried about it!)
   a) You’d have no interest in Jesus, no interest in church, or in any spiritual matters!

K. Jesus was Mistaken in His Ministry & Misunderstood with His Power!

V. Slide#16 MISREAD (Family) (31-35)

A. Slide#17a (33) Jesus wasn’t severing family ties.
   1. On the cross he was very concerned about His mother!
   2. Later, His ½ brother James would be the leader in the Jerusalem church. His ½ brother Jude would write his book!
   3. He meant, there is a deeper kinship than flesh & blood, a spiritual kinship which is characterized by obedience to the Father!
      a) Of course obedience doesn’t originate relationship w/God (faith does that) but obedience is a sign of it! (Kent Hughes)

4. Jesus describes the New family, which is far superior to the human family…for it lasts longer (eternal); it’s stronger; it’s more satisfying.
   a) The highest relationships of life are spiritual, not physical.
   b) You’ve witnessed this. You meet someone. You find out they are born-again. You talk about Christ, ministry, His love. And you sense that warm wonderful feeling of “family”!
   c) Do you have more in common with your spiritual family than w/your earthly family?

B. God is pro family! – Yet, we are presently watching the disintegration of the family melt right before us, even in the Church.
   1. Slide#17b We witness 2 extremes: The Lack of Love for your family; and The Worship of family (aka domestic idolatry).
   2. [1] Lack of love! Sociologist tell us that in the last couple decades the American nuclear family (A family unit consisting of a mother and father & their children) has been disintegrating
& is accelerating at a rapid rate. It has to change; no complex society has ever survived w/o a nuclear family!

a) Margaret Mead, U.S. anthropologist. Quoted in: New Realities (June 1978). “Nobody has ever before asked the nuclear family to live all by itself in a box the way we do. With no relatives, no support, we’ve put it in an impossible situation.”

3. [2] The worship of family! Jesus warned, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”

a) We must love & obey God 1st!

C. (34) He looked around at those seated around him. Mt. adds he gestured w/his hand…“and said, Here are my mother & brothers.”

1. There are ties that are even deeper & stronger now…the Kingdom Family!
2. To which all those to whom obey God belong.
3. So, it’s not being in a National family (Jews); not being in a Natural family (His mother & brothers); but in a spiritual or Supernatural family.

D. Jesus was Mistaken in His Ministry; Misunderstood with His Power; & Misread regarding His Family!

E. Slide#18a Note the insiders & the outsiders.

1. Jesus & His disciples went Inside the house(19); His own family was Outside (20). Again in vs.31 His family comes again & are standing Outside; and the crowds say it again, Your family is outside(32); No, My family is Inside sitting around me in a circle.
2. Jesus went Outside for you to get Inside!
   a) Mark 1:45, the Leper could now go Inside the city (being healed) so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places.
   b) Heb.13:12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. He died outside so we could come Inside!
   c) Jesus cried, My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me…so you could cry, Our Father who art in heaven. And so you could cry, Abba, Father!
3. Will you humble yourself and come and sit as Jesus feet?
   a) Isn’t that a whole lot better than, “try harder; do more; stop that; you don’t measure up; do it better.” Isn’t it a whole lot better to hear, “Believe in Jesus Christ; just sit at His feet; learn of Him; take Him for who He is; accept His ministry…& you will become an Insider!”
4. **Slide#18b** Picture Jesus saying this wee verse, “One door & only one, yet its sides are **two**; I am on the **Inside** on which side are **you**?”