# "THE UNPARDONABLE SIN"

## (Blasphemy Against the Spirit)

**Matthew 12:22-33**

1/14/2018

INTRODUCTION:

***Beware of the unpardonable sin; understand what blasphemy against the Spirit is.**

**I. The Miracle that <u>Occasioned</u> the Blasphemy (v. 22-24)**

**II. The Message that <u>Refuted</u> the Blasphemy (v. 25-30)**

A. The <u>devil</u> would not <u>destroy</u> his own work (v. 25-26)

B. <u>Others</u> have performed <u>exorcisms</u> by God's power (v. 27)

C. Christ is <u>stronger</u> than Satan (v. 28-29)

D. You cannot be <u>neutral</u> toward Christ (v. 30)

**III. The Message that <u>Warned Against</u> the Blasphemy (v. 31-33)**

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The whole Bible bears testimony to this wonderful and glorious truth: God desires to and is able to forgive sin:

Ps. 86:5 - For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Ps. 103:3 - Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Dan. 9:9 - To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;

Ex. 34:6-7 - And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin . . .

Mic. 7:18-19 - Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

Eph. 1:7 - In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

1 Jn. 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 Jn. 2:12 - I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

But is there a sin that is unforgiveable? Unpardonable?

Is there a kind of sin that is beyond the mercy and grace of God?

READ: Mt. 12:31-32

The "blasphemy against the Holy Spirit" is often misunderstood and misapplied. Many live in terror, fearing that they may have commmitted this hideous sin.

***Beware of the unpardonable sin; understand what blasphemy against the Spirit is.**

## I. The Miracle that Occasioned the Blasphemy (v. 22-24)

**V. 22**

***"Possessed" -*** to be inhabited and controlled by a demon (fallen angel)

***"Blind and dumb" -*** the demon affected his ability to see and speak. The evil spirit veiled his eyes and tied up his tongue.

Satan (and his host of wicked demons) have power (ability), if allowed by God, to afflict with physical injury.

EX: Job (Job 2:7 - *"So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.")*

Paul (II Cor. 12:7 - *"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.")*

However, they cannot possess a believer.
An evil spirit cannot co-exist in the same vessel which houses the Holy Spirit.

***"He healed him" -*** When Jesus heals, He completely heals. The stronghold which Satan held was immediately liberated by the Son of God.

Such miraculous power, performed by the power of the Holy Spirit (v. 28) was for the purpose of validating, proving, authenticating Jesus as the promised Messiah (*"the Son of David"* - v. 23).

**V. 24**

The Pharisees were not present when the miracle was performed, but they quickly caught wind of it and dismissed it.

***"This fellow" -*** lit. this one. They did not even give Jesus the respect of calling Him by name.

***"Beelzebub" -*** the arch fallen angel; the "lord" of the filthy host of evil spirits; Satan himself (v. 26)

The Pharisees could not deny the reality of the miracle itself (as all of Christ's miracles were irrefutably bonified), so they denied the source of the miracle.

The Pharisees did not agree with Nicodemus' evaluation of Christ's miracles (Jn. 3:2).

The Pharisees' goal was to poison the minds of the people against Christ.

## II. The Message that Refuted the Blasphemy (v. 25-30)

### A. The devil would not destroy his own work (v. 25-26)

**V. 25**

***"Jesus knew their thoughts" -*** Jesus being omniscient knew the wicked thoughts of the Pharisees

To refute the Pharisees claim, the Lord gives an illustration to show how inconsistent, how absurd it would be for Beelzebub to cast out demons. Satan would be working against himself.

Where there is not unity, there will be destruction.

Three aspects of civilization cannot exist where there is division (schism):

--a kingdom (nation)
--a city
--a house (family)

**V. 26**

By casting out the demon, Jesus was destroying one part of the devil's work.

Satan would not destroy his own work. He would not fight against his own purpose.

### B. Others have performed exorcisms by God's power (v. 27)

**V. 27**

Jesus again shows the inconsistency of the Pharisees' accusation by appealing to their descendants (***"relatives")*** who perform exorcisms.

### C. Christ is stronger than Satan (v. 28-29)

**V. 28**

Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit at His baptism (Mt. 3:16). He then performed all of His miraculous works by the power of the Holy Spirit (mt. 4:1; Mk. 1:12; Lk. 4:1, 18; Jn. 3:34; Acts 1:2; Ro. 1:4).

And Christ did not have the Spirit's power in a limited portion (*"He giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him")*.

The Kingdom of God exists wherever the King is.
If Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit, and if by that Spirit He performed miracles, then He must be the Messiah as prophesied by Isaiah:

Is. 11:2 - *"And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord"*

Is. 61:1 - *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.").*

The Pharisees forfeited God's kingdom because they rejected God's King - Jesus Christ.

**V. 29**
Jesus could not order a demon to leave a man, unless He was stronger (more powerful and more authoritative) than that demon.

The truth is, no demon is any match for Jesus Christ.

*"Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world"*

**D. You cannot be <u>neutral</u> toward Christ (v. 30)**

**V. 30**
There are only <u>two groups</u> of people in this world

--Those who are <u>with</u> . . . <u>against</u>
--Those who <u>gather</u> . . . <u>scatter</u>

You have one of two relationships with Christ.

Those who are "with" Christ -
1) Believe in Him
2) Submit to Him
3) Obey Him
4) Follow Him

No one is neutral toward Christ. People are either with Him (on His side) or against Him.

You are either working in harmony and unity with Christ or you are doing the devil's work.
"It is not necessary to oppose Christ in order to be against Him; it is only necessary not to be with Him." (MacArthur, p. 311).

## III. The Message that <u>Warned Against</u> the Blasphemy (v. 31-33)

**V. 31**

***"All manner of sin" -*** God is able to forgive any and ever sin (I Cor. 6:9-11).

Even *"blasphemy"* (to defame or speak evil of God) is forgivable (EX: Paul - I Tim. 1:13-14).

**V. 32**

Mark 3:30 specifically reveals what the blasphemy against the Spirit is: It is to attribute the Spirit's work in Christ to Satan. It is to accuse Jesus of performing His miracles by the power of an unclean Spirit.

NOTE: Because Christ is not with us <u>in the flesh</u> performing miracles today, this sin cannot be committed in the same sense that the Pharisees committed it.

<u>Definition of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit</u>:

In the <u>context</u> of Christ's day, the unpardonable sin is:
***To Attribute the Holy Spirit's work in Christ to a demonic spirit (by Satan)***
(SEE: Mark 3:30)

In our day, the unpardonable sin is:
***"The willful, continued denial of the Holy Spirit's testimony concerning the <u>person and work of Jesus Christ.</u>"***

How do you know if you are committing the unpardonable sin?

Answer this: Are you accusing Jesus of having an unclean (demonic) spirit? (Mk. 3:30).

Can this sin of "blaspheming the Spirit" be committed today in any sense? Yes, because of this reason:

> The Holy Spirit's ministry is to bear witness to Christ (John 15:26) and to convict lost sinners (John 16:7-11).
>
> When someone rejects that testimony (and resists the Holy Spirit) and dies in that state, they have no chance of forgiveness.

**V. 33**
The good fruit of Christ's life proved that what He did, He did by the power of the Holy Spirit and not by Satan.