



The King in Conflict Pt 8: The Unpardonable Sin

August 4, 2019

Text: Matthew 12:31-32

- Today's text introduces a very serious theme: there is a sin that will not be forgiven unto men, neither in this world (or age) or in the world (or age) to come: blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.
- If you recall from a few weeks ago, to blaspheme is:
 - *To speak of the Supreme Being in terms of impious (unholy, ungodly) irreverence; to revile or speak reproachfully of God, or the Holy Spirit.*
 - *To speak evil of; to utter abuse or calumny (slander) against; to speak reproachfully of.*

What does the text mean?

- If you recall, the Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out devils by the prince of devils.
- In our text the LORD is warning them that such thinking is blasphemy not only against Him, but also against He through whom He is ministering.
- Whether they realized it or not, in their ignorance and/or hatred of Jesus, the Pharisees were slandering and rejecting the ministry of the Holy Ghost. This created quite a problem given the Holy Spirit's role in God's redemptive plan...

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

1. He **Creates**; and creation itself holds man accountable. (Gen 1:1-2; Rom 1:19-21)
2. He **Convicts** (John 16:7-11)
3. He **Reveals** and **Glorifies** Christ (John 16:13-15)
4. He **Renews** (John 3:3-5; Titus 3:3-5)
5. He **Enables** the saved to **Proclaim** Christ (1 Cor 12:3)
6. He works **signs** and **wonders** and gives gifts to the Body of Christ (Rom 15:18-19; 1 Cor 12:7-11)
7. He **Inspired** the writing of the **Scriptures** (2 Pet 1:20-21)

The story of martyr Stephen shows this terrible sin in action (Acts 7:49-60)

So again, what is the Unpardonable Sin?

In my view, the Unpardonable Sin is the rejection of the ministry of the Holy Spirit unto **death.**¹

When the ministry of the Holy Spirit is reviled, slandered and blasphemed and one dies in that state, at least in some form, the "unpardonable sin" has been committed because that person dies and is forever lost. If one blasphemes Jesus, but later comes under conviction and repents, praise be to God! But when one resists the Holy Spirit unto death, that one dies with no hope.

¹ There is debate in the Christian community that there may be more to this sin, but at a minimum, we believe this is so.

John Gill said this is so...

"...not because the Holy Ghost is greater than Christ; or for want of efficacy in the blood of Christ; or because God cannot pardon it; but because such persons willfully, maliciously, and obstinately oppose the Spirit of God, without whom there can be no application of pardon made; and remain in hardness of heart, are given up to a reprobate mind, and die in impenitence and unbelief, and so there is no forgiveness for them."

John MacArther said:

"Someone never exposed to Christ's divine power and presence might reject Him in ignorance and be forgiven, if the unbelief gives way to genuine repentance. Even a Pharisee such as Saul of Tarsus could be forgiven for speaking "against the Son of Man" or persecuting His followers, because his unbelief stemmed from ignorance. But those who know His claims are true and reject Him anyway sin "against the Holy Spirit," because it is the Holy Spirit who testifies of Christ and makes His truth known to us. No forgiveness is possible for these Pharisees who witness His miracles firsthand, know the truth of His claims, and still blaspheme the Holy Spirit, because they have already rejected the fullest possible revelation."

Hallelujah!

Thanks be to God who loved us enough to open our eyes, show us our sins, and impart the faith to believe in the Gospel of Jesus!

- *Matthew 4:16-17 (KJV) The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
- *1 Timothy 3:16 (KJV) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

Thanks be to God that He did not leave us in the strong man's house, with eyes that could not see and ears that were too deceived to hear, but He delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son!

1 Peter 1:3-5 (KJV) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Amen!