

“Unforgiven”

Matthew 12v14-32

Scripture Ref: Isaiah 42:1-3; John 15:26; Gen 6:3

- 1. Last week we talked about the Sabbath, and if that were not a contentious topic, this week we will look at the “Unforgivable sin”**
 - a. If I asked you right now “what is the unpardonable sin” – what would you say?**
 - i. Suicide? Killing an innocent? Assaulting a child?**
 - b. I put a post up earlier in the week that I was going to teach on this subject, and I got a lot of questions and comments.**

Jesus Pulls Away

14 Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him. 15 But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. 16 Yet He warned them not to make Him known, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

*18 "Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen,
My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased!
I will put My Spirit upon Him,
And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.
19 He will not quarrel nor cry out,
Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.
20 A bruised reed He will not break,
And smoking flax He will not quench,
Till He sends forth justice to victory;
21 And in His name Gentiles will trust."*

- 2. Matthew here points out that Jesus was walking in fulfillment of the prophet Isaiah, who spoke of Jesus.**
 - a. That God the Father was well pleased with His Son**
 - b. That Jesus was full of the Spirit of God**
 - c. That Jesus came not only to the Jew, but to the Gentiles**
 - d. That Jesus was not going to run around and cry in the streets, making a spectacle of Himself**
 - e. If a person is bruised, He won't not toss them aside, but will restore them.**
 - f. If there is even the smallest spark in a person, He wont quench it, but will fan it into a flame!**
- 3. The third rail...**

A House Divided Cannot Stand

22 Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. 23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

4. **At this point the Pharisees have had it with Jesus...**
 - a. **They could not challenge Him with the law –**
 - i. **Not only was He guiltless in following the law of God (vs the traditions of man)**
 - ii. **He knew the heart of the law: the people knew it, and the Pharisees were burned up by it.**
 - b. **They could not catch Him in any sin – He was sinless**
 - c. **They couldn't shut Him up**
 - d. **So, they began to try and smear Him – to accuse Him of something that would be hard to refute, but that could possibly ruin His ministry: They would accuse Him of being empowered by Satan.**

24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

5. **Now when the Pharisees pulled this card out, they knew what they were doing – it was calculated.**
 - a. **They were going nuclear – bringing out the big guns**
6. **There are some things that are like kryptonite in certain circles**
 - a. **If you are a Republican, you better not show any support for abortion, or gun control, or gay marriage**
 - b. **If you are a Democrat, you better not mess with the welfare, or labor, or abortion rights**
 - c. **For a person in the ministry – any type of sexual sin, drugs, even the hint of inappropriateness towards a younger person – it will tank the ministry.**
 - d. **These are what you would call the "Third Rail" - touch it and you'll get electrocuted!**
 - e. **At the time of Christ, amongst the Jewish people, any association with Satan was a death sentence to your ministry, and possibly you - people would start to gather around with big rocks in their hands!**

7. **Jesus response to the Pharisees was at first – logical:**

25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against

itself will not stand. 26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

- 8. First, He noted the illogical nature of their accusation: If I am casting out demons by Satan's power, then Satan is a confused devil, because he would be fighting against himself!**
 - a. Note that Jesus didn't dispute that Satan has a kingdom – he is the “god of this world”.**
 - b. He has an established kingdom, with demonic rulers, principalities**
 - c. And He is a “strong man”**
 - d. But Satan is not a fool – what they were accusing Jesus of made no sense at all.**
- 9. Next Jesus asked them about their own exorcists...**

27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.

- 10. The Jews had men who went around and cast out demons, “by whom do your sons cast them out”, Jesus asks?**
 - a. Did they really think that their people acted with God's power, and Jesus had some other power?**
 - b. “Therefore they shall be your judges” – Jesus is telling them, you cant have it both ways.**
 - c. Either we are both doing this by the power of God, or the power of Satan – which is it?**
- 11. Next, Jesus tells them where the real power comes from:**

28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

- 12. Jesus is telling these guys “where do you think the power to cast out these demons if from? Can anyone but God do this?”**
 - a. “...And when you come to the logical conclusion of that question, then you have to confess that God's Kingdom is HERE...**
 - b. ... You have to come to the conclusion that I am who I say I am.**
 - c. ... You must acknowledge that I am the promised Messiah.”**
- 13. Jesus reference to the “strong man” is a reference to Satan, the strong man of this world**
 - a. Satan is just like a powerful gangster, who has come in and taken over the world, doing his evil wherever he can.**

- b. **And Jesus has now come – and entered the strong mans house – the world – and has bound the strong man, and plundered his house!**
- c. **Remember Jesus said: “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force” Matt 11:12**
- d. **In other words – there is a war going on! But our King has entered the battle, and has bound the enemy, and taken his plunder!**
- e. **And in this war there are no “neutral entities”**

30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

14. In other words there is a choice to be made

- a. **You can think whatever you like – but at some point you have to make a choice – “What will I make of Jesus Christ?”**
- b. **Some people will hear the news, and sign up right away**
- c. **Others have to try things their own way for a while, but after some time they come around**
- d. **Others – there are some that will not respond to Jesus no matter what happens – no matter what is seen, heard, experienced**
- e. **No matter how God makes Himself known before them, they will not believe.**
- f. **That, my friends, is the unpardonable sin.**

The Unpardonable Sin

31 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.

15. Remember the rules of Biblical interpretation – who is Jesus talking to, what is the setting, what is the context.

- a. **Jesus is speaking to the religious rulers who...**
 - i. **Rejected His claim as Messiah**
 - ii. **Rejected the scriptural evidence of His authenticity**
 - iii. **Rejected the testimony of John the Baptist**
 - iv. **Rejected the testimony of the miracles that Jesus performed by the power of the Holy Spirit**
- b. **They rejected Jesus, and now they were accusing Him of working in the power of Satan**
- c. **And Jesus is warning them – “you are in danger of committing the unpardonable sin.”**

16. What is the unpardonable sin? Jesus tells us...

32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

17. Jesus said “you can speak against Me (or God for that matter), but if you come against the Holy Spirit of God – that’s an entirely different thing.

- a. **Do you wonder why you could commit any sin against God or Jesus, but this one sin against the Holy Spirit it unforgivable?**
- b. **Lets look at the Holy Spirit.**

18. The main ministry of the Holy Spirit is to testify of Jesus Christ

John 15:26

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

- a. **The Holy Spirit is the one who comes alongside a person, and begins to reveal to the heart of man that God is real, and that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**
- b. **The Holy Spirit convicts a person of their sin, and that they are in need of redemption through Jesus Christ**
- c. **So He testifies of Jesus to mankind.**

19. To reject that testimony is to call the Holy Spirit a liar about the person of Jesus Christ

- a. **For example - it’s the same thing where your friend might tell you something, and you say: “I don’t believe you”**
- b. **That is the same as saying “you are a liar.”**
- c. **For the Pharisees to reject the ministry of Jesus was to call the Holy Spirit a liar, to say that it was Satan doing the work and not God, it was blaspheming the Holy Spirit**
- d. **For a person today to reject the testimony of the Holy Spirit, the conviction of the Holy Spirit, is in effect saying “You are a liar about Jesus.”**

20. Now ...am I saying that if you don’t get saved the moment you sense the call of God’s Spirit, you are doomed? NO!

- a. **But I am saying that every time you reject it – your heart will harden... perhaps a little more each time, and at some point you will come to the place where you WONT believe in Jesus, you CANT believe in Jesus**

Gen 6:3 My Spirit shall not strive with man forever

- 21. As an example: In Exodus we are given the account of the Israelites living in Egypt (by the way which represents the world system).**
- a. At first it was all “green grass and high tides forever” – but after a few hundred years, the Israelites become slaves to the Egyptians**
 - b. Then God sent Moses, a type of Christ, to Pharaoh, a type of Satan, with the command “let my people go!”**
 - c. The bible tells us that Pharaoh hardened His heart against the Israelites.**
 - d. But interestingly – in that account, it first says “Pharaoh hardened his heart”, then later it says “God hardened Pharaoh’s heart”**
 - e. In other words, Pharaohs first position was to reject Moses, and thus God. That is where he started.**
 - f. But at some point, God took where his heart was, and set it in that place, so that not only Pharaoh WOULD NOT obey God, but Pharaoh COULD NOT obey God.**
- 22. And that is a picture of a person who commits the sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit**
- a. God reveals Himself to that person, and for whatever reason they decide to walk away – “not now” – “I’m not sure” – “I’m just not ready” – “that’s bunk – lame”**
 - b. And that person begins to be like the Pharisees, coming dangerously close to the blasphemy of the Spirit.**
 - c. And at some point, they will be like Pharaoh, not they not only WONT believe, they cant believe.**

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