

## God's Forgiveness

Matthew 12:22-32

### Introduction:

- Drawing conclusions based on s\_\_\_\_\_ reasoning.
  1. We all have done this.
  2. The Pharisees did this (vv. 22-24)
    - a. They started with the premise that Jesus was no good.
    - b. They heard the crowds wondering if Jesus was the son of D\_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. the promised final king of Israel), for He had successfully cast out a demon that was making a man b\_\_\_\_\_ and m\_\_\_\_\_.
    - c. They quickly explained this success as due to the power of the r\_\_\_\_\_ of demons (i.e. Satan).
- Jesus shoots down their conclusion with s\_\_\_\_\_ reasoning.
  1. General truth (v. 25)
    - a. A kingdom cannot s\_\_\_\_\_ if it is divided against itself.
    - b. A city or even a h\_\_\_\_\_ that is divided cannot stand.
  2. Specific truth - S\_\_\_\_\_ kingdom would not stand if it were divided against itself.
  3. The inescapable conclusion (vv. 26-30):
    - a. Their s\_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. those who aligned themselves with the traditional teachings of the Pharisees) that cast out demons would j\_\_\_\_\_ the Pharisees' conclusion as wrong.
    - b. Jesus casts out demons by the S\_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- Today, we are going to learn about God's forgiveness
  1. Don't let conclusions you have already drawn prevent you from h\_\_\_\_\_ what Jesus has to say.
  2. We do not want to get the forgiveness of God w\_\_\_\_\_.

### God's Forgiveness is free, not deserved (31a)

*Any sin, even blasphemy shall be forgiven people...*

- No one d\_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness (Rom 6:23; Eph 2:9)
  1. Jesus is not saying that every sin will be forgiven e\_\_\_\_\_ person in the world (see Rom 1:18).

2. Jesus is saying that every sin will be forgiven people in general. But they must be **in** C\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Rom 6:23 – *the free gift is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.*
  - b. Rom 8:1 – *there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

● God's forgiveness is f\_\_\_\_\_ and is not deserved.

### **Blasphemy is willful, not accidental sin (31a, 32a)**

*even blasphemy shall be forgiven people...*

- The meaning of blasphemy
  1. Literal meaning – to speak e\_\_\_\_\_
  2. The practical meaning – to speak bad things about someone with the intent of r\_\_\_\_\_ their reputation.
  3. Therefore, the sin of blasphemy cannot be committed by a\_\_\_\_\_. It is a willful sin.
- The sin of blasphemy against the Son of Man (i.e. Jesus) is n\_\_\_\_\_ unforgivable.
  1. The Pharisees blasphemed Jesus
    - a. By aligning Him with S\_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. By calling Him a S\_\_\_\_\_ and a demon (Jn 8:48).
  2. Before trusting Christ, the apostle Paul blasphemed Jesus, yet he was forgiven of this sin (1 Tim 1:13)
  3. Both thieves who were crucified with Jesus blasphemed Him (Matt 27:44), but Jesus told one of them, *Today, you will be with Me in Paradise.* (Lk 23:43).
  4. It does not matter who you are (*whoever blasphemes*). If you repent and come to Christ, that sin will be forgiven.
- Therefore, continue to p\_\_\_\_\_ for the salvation of those who speak evil against Jesus.

### **Blasphemy against the Spirit is the only sin God will never forgive (27-32)**

*It shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.*

- Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is not the f\_\_\_\_\_ rejection of Jesus Christ.

1. Some have reasoned that every single s\_\_\_\_\_ (past, present, and future) of every single p\_\_\_\_\_ (past, present, and future) was forgiven in the sacrifice of Christ except for one sin, the final rejection of Christ.
  2. However, the Bible is clear that every sin of every person who dies without faith in Christ is n\_\_\_\_ forgiven, not just their final rejection of Christ (Jn 5:29; Rev 20:12).
- What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?
1. The Pharisees were blaspheming Jesus by erroneously attributing His power to Satan. Jesus confronts this e\_\_\_\_\_ by giving them two choices:
    - a. *Am I casting out demons by an unholy spirit (Satan)?*
    - b. *Or am I casting out demons by the Holy Spirit? (The Holy Spirit was i\_\_\_\_\_ in the theology of the Pharisees).*
  2. Jesus points them to consider two things:
    - a. *What would your sons who cast out demons say? (v. 27)*
    - b. *If I cast out demons by God's Spirit, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (v. 28)*
  3. The Pharisees now know the answer, but will they continue to stick with their claims and now w\_\_\_\_\_ and knowingly attribute the work of the Spirit to Satan?
  4. Therefore, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is willfully and knowingly calling the work of the Spirit satanic.
- Why would anyone commit this sin?
1. Some of the Pharisees might for p\_\_\_\_\_ gain (Jn 11:47,48).
  2. False teachers might do this for m\_\_\_\_\_ or for some other kind of personal gain (2 Pet 2:1,20,21)
  3. Some Jewish people who superficially accepted Christ and experienced the things of Christ, might return to what they are comfortable with - their old religion of animal sacrifices (Heb 6).
- We are not to p\_\_\_\_\_ for the salvation of one who commits this sin (I Jn 5:16)

**Conclusion:**

Don't w\_\_\_\_\_ about committing this sin. It is w\_\_\_\_\_.  
 M\_\_\_\_\_ on the gift of God's forgiveness, freely given in Jesus.