

- I) V14 INTRO: And He was casting out a demon and it was mute. So it was when the demon
 - a) AS WE BEGIN: This particular work is also recorded in Matthew and Mark
 - 1) THERE: The writers make it clear that this provoked Jesus' teaching on *the unpardonable sin*
 - 2) This sin is also called the blasphemy of the Spirit, the unforgivable sin
 - 3) Mk 3:28-29 Assuredly I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation

- II) FIRST: We need to consider that there is a consistent message found throughout scripture
 - a) THE MESSAGE: *By nature* man is sinful
 - 1) Ps 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.t1
 - 2) Eccl 7:20 For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.
 - 3) Ro 3:10 There is none righteous, no, not one
 - 4) 1 Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- III) SECOND: The Bible reveals that sin has consequences
 - a) It results in a separation from God and ultimately, leads to our death
 - 1) Ezek 18:20 The soul that sins, it shall die
 - 2) Ro 5:12 Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned--

- IV) WITH DEATH COMES FINAL JUDGMENT: All will ultimately stand before God, the righteous judge
 - a) Eccl. 3:17 God will bring to judgment both the righteous and the wicked...
 - b) Heb 9:27
 - c) Rev 20:15 Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

- V) ONE THE OTHER HAND: One message is constantly repeated as a theme of scripture
 - a) Though God is Just, God is also a *forgiving God*
 - 1) Ps 86:5 You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive; and plentiful in mercy to *all those* who call upon You.

- VI) NO MATTER: *How terrible* the sin is God will forgive it
 - a) What is worse then *killing God's Son*? Yet, what is it that Jesus prayed?
 - 1) Lu 23:34 Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.

- VII) NO MATTER: *How long* one has sinned, God is able and willing to forgive:
 - a) Even a lifetime filled with it
 - 1) The thief on the cross is a good example of this

- VIII) FINALLY, NO MATTER: *What kind* of sin, God is able and willing to forgive:
 - a) 1 Co 6:9-11 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
 - b) 1 Jn 1:7 If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son cleanses us *from all sin*

- I) **HOW ARE OUR SINS FORGIVEN:** Is it through our determined efforts and good deeds
 - a) **NO:** Our sins are cleansed by receiving, by faith, Jesus' gift of life (Jn 3:16, 5:24)
 - 1) **THE FACT IS:** God forgives every sin you can imagine, with the exception of *one*
 - 2) We will examine this particular sin in this study: *The Blasphemy of the Spirit*

- II) **IN THIS CASE:** Jesus has cast out a demon from a possessed man
 - a) Had was possessed by a demon and had an inability to speak
 - 1) Jesus instantly delivers and heals the man, revealing His heavenly authority

- III) **JESUS HAD AUTHORITY:** Over these beings because He is the Creator of all things
 - a) He created them (originally angels, they later fell in rebellion) and has authority over them
 - 1) Col. 1:16 For *by him were all things created*, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: *all things were created by him, and for him:*

- IV) **V14 RESPONSE OF THE WITNESSES:** The multitudes marveled
 - a) They were astounded, completely amazed at what had happened
 - 1) Mt 12:23 tells us that they began wondering if Jesus could be the Son of David (Messiah)
 - 2) Ps 89:3-4 I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Your seed will I establish for ever, and build up your throne to all generations.

- V) **V15 BUT:** Some of them said He casts out demons by Beelzebub the ruler of the demons
 - a) Beelzebub is also known as Baal Zebub, Lord of the flies, Lord of Dung
 - 1) His name is ancient, associated with Philistine worship over 700 years BC (2 Ki 1)
 - 2) Ultimately, he was recognized during the time of Jesus as *Satan*

- VI) **V15 BUT SOME OF THE SAID:** He casts out demons by Beelzebub the ruler of the demons
 - a) Matthew tells us that those saying this were the Pharisees (Mt 12:24)
 - 1) **KEY:** They actually encourage the people to doubt who Jesus is, not what He is doing
 - 2) They could not tolerate the thought that Jesus might actually be *their* Messiah
 - 3) Did not say Jesus was not doing works, simply credited them to Satan

- VII) **THIS IS A COMMON:** When you cannot *disprove*, then simply *discredit*:
 - a) **THE TACTIC:** Impugning character to undermine credibility
 - 1) In undermining His credibility, they place themselves in the position of great judgment
 - 2) Mk 9:42 But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.

- VIII) **V16 OTHERS:** Testing Him sought from Him a sign from heaven
 - a) They did not say He was satanic, but did demand that He give instant proof of being Messiah
 - 1) **TESTING:** To test one maliciously, craftily to put to the proof his feelings or judgments
 - 2) **COMMON BELIEF:** Demons perform earthly signs, true prophets do heavenly signs
 - 3) Jn 6:30-33 They said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

- I) **V17 BUT HE KNOWING THEIR THOUGHTS:** Said to them Every kingdom divided against itself
 - a) **JESUS DEALS WITH THEIR ACCUSATION:** By revealing their absurdity
 - 1) **Government and families cannot survive division: Division undermines effectiveness**
- II) **V18 IF SATAN:** Also is divided against himself how will his kingdom stand Because you say
 - a) **IF SATAN CASTS OUT SATAN:** He is divided against himself
 - 1) **POINT:** Unity of purpose is necessary, if Satan is to continue to oppose God
 - 2) **DIVISION:** Is a work of the enemy and flesh, attempting to undermine God's effectiveness
- III) **V19 AND:** If I cast out demons by Beelzebub by whom do your sons cast them out Therefore they
 - a) **SECOND:** He appeals to the fact that they recognize the validity of deliverance from demons
 - 1) **Your sons:** Your disciples, of whom you approve, are casting out demons
- IV) **V20 HE CLINCHES HIS ARGUMENT:** But if I cast out demons with the finger of God surely the
 - a) **POINT:** If He did His work by the Spirit, then His miracles were of God, and He is Messiah
 - 1) **The only remaining possibility is that He is anointed and casts out demons by God's Spirit**
- V) **V20 THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS COME UPON YOU:**
 - a) **This is clearly revealed by His plundering of Satan's domain**
 - 1) **He is setting captives to Satan free**
- VI) **V21-22 WHEN:** A strong man fully armed guards his own palace his goods are in peace
 - a) **THE TRUTH IS:** One must be stronger than Satan to enter his domain, bind him and free people
 - 1) **Only Jesus has that kind of authority: Satan surely does not set captives free!**
- VII) **THE FACT IS:** They rejected Jesus, not on evidence but because they simply refused to believe
 - a) **This makes it a greater sin: They intentionally and willfully resist (blaspheme) God's Spirit**
 - 1) **Mk 3:28-30 Assuredly I say to you all sins will be forgiven the sons of men and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness but is subject to eternal condemnation because they said He has an unclean spirit**
- VIII) **KEY:** Forgiveness is possible: Every sin you sin is forgivable, when taken to God
 - a) **THERE IS ONE:** That will not ever be forgiven: The Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit
 - 1) **This is the greater sin: This is resisting the Holy Spirit, intentionally**
- IX) **IT IS SINNING AGAINST THE LIGHT:** A determination to reject what God has revealed is true
 - a) **When someone deliberately rejects the conviction of the Spirit, they are forever lost (Jn 16:8)**
 - 1) **To continually state that Jesus is not the Savior is to reject the salvation offered through Him**
 - 2) **Jonah 2:8 Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.**
- X) **V23 HE WHO:** Is not with Me is against Me and he who does not gather with Me scatters
 - a) **Whose side are you on**
- XI) **V24-26 NOTICE:** When an Unclean spirit *goes out* of a man he goes through dry places
 - a) **PICTURE:** It goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none
 - 1) **DRY PLACES:** One of extreme barrenness and discomfort: Desires habitation, finds none

- I) V24 IT MAKES A DECISION: I will return to my house from which I came
 - a) V25 RETURNS: And finds it swept, and in order
 - 1) REFORMATION HAD OCCURRED: the person's life had been put in order
 - 2) IF UNREGENERATED: He can again be possessed: Need to fill space with Jesus

- II) V26 THEN: He goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself
 - a) NOTICE: They enter and *dwell* there:
 - 1) DWELL: To live, to settle down, to make yourself at home

- III) THE LAST STATE IS WORSE THAN THE FIRST: What is Jesus' point?
 - a) REFORMATION WITHOUT REGENERATION IS DESTRUCTIVE
 - 1) A self-restored person is in danger, because he becomes *satisfied with his condition*
 - 2) KEY: Because he is no longer in bondage to his sin, he thinks he is safe and good
 - 3) It is easier to reach someone who is overwhelmed with a *true sense of sin* than someone filled with a false sense of goodness
 - 4) FALSE SECURITY: Like child under blankets while fire approaches