

- I) V22-30 INTRO: And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said He has *Beelzebub* and by the
  - a) TODAY: We are looking at what has been called the unpardonable sin
    - 1) This sin is referred to here as the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (V29)
  
- II) OVER THE YEARS: This is a sin that has generated a large amount of questions
  - a) OFTEN: The way that it is approached is Have I committed the unpardonable sin?
    - 1) Tonight we will spend some time looking at the blasphemy of the Spirit
  
- III) FIRST: We need to consider that there is a consistent message found throughout scripture
  - a) This is the message that, *by nature* man is sinful (Ro 3:10)
    - 1) The root of our problems is not lack of education, money, family, opportunities, jobs, etc
    - 2) The root of our problems is what is called a sin nature
    - 3) Ps 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
    - 4) 1 Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
  
- IV) SECOND: The Bible also reveals that sin has consequences: it is a fatal condition
  - a) It results in a separation from God and ultimately, results in death (Ro 6:23)
    - 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
  
- V) THIRD, WITH DEATH COMES JUDGMENT: All 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.
  
- VI) ON THE OTHER HAND: A second message is constantly repeated as a theme of scripture
  - a) Though God is just, God is also a merciful, loving, and *forgiving God*
    - 1) Ps 86:5 You, Lord, are *good, and ready to forgive*; and abounding in mercy to *all those* who call upon You.
  
- VII) NO MATTER: *How terrible*, or what *kind* of sin, God is able and willing to forgive if we repent
  - a) This is the testimony of the church in Corinth
    - 1) 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.
      - 2) Eph 5:5-6 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
  
- VIII) HOW ARE OUR SINS FORGIVEN: By receiving in faith the provision God has made for us
  - a) Jn 3:16-17, 5:24; 1:12
  
- IX) THE FACT IS: God forgives *every sin*, with the exception of *one*
  - a) This is the sin called *The Blasphemy of the Spirit* (V29)
  
- I) V22 AND: The scribes who came down from Jerusalem said *He has Beelzebub* and by the ruler of

- a) Matthew also records this incident and provides the context for us
  - 1) Mt 12:22-24 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; and all the multitudes *were amazed* and said, "*Could this be* the Son of David?" Now when the *Pharisees* heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."
    - 2) He had *three* afflictions: Demon possession, blindness, and an inability to speak
    - 3) NOTICE: Matthew made it clear that Jesus instantly delivered and healed the man
- II) NOTICE V23: The multitudes were amazed and said *Could this be* the Son of David?
  - a) *AMAZED*: Totally astounded; to be beside oneself with amazement and wonder
    - 1) In this state of agitation, they ask *Could this be* the Son of David
- III) JESUS' WORKS: Were intended to cause people to ask such questions
  - a) Jesus' works were intended to demonstrate that He had been sent by God
    - 1) Jn 10:25 The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.
    - 2) Ac 2:22 Jesus of Nazareth, (was) a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst
- IV) THIS: Is why the multitudes asked *Could this be* the Son of David
  - a) They knew Messiah was a descendant of David, and that He would perform miracles
    - 1) 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) KEY: These kinds of works would be His credentials, as Jesus said to John's messengers
  - a) Mt 11:3-6 (They) said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: *The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.*
- VI) MK 3:22 THEIR REACTION: He has *Beelzebub* and *By* the ruler of the demons He casts out demons
  - a) Beelzebub is an ancient name for Satan, prince of the demons: Lord of dung, or flies
    - 1) THEIR TACTIC: They encourage the doubt these people have (*could this be?* Mt 12:23)
- VII) TACTIC: When you cannot *disprove*, then *discredit*: attack the man, not what He is doing
  - a) NOTICE: They did not deny His works; they credited them to Satan
    - 1) This is a common tactic: Impugning a person's character to undermine their credibility
- VIII) V23 SO: He called them to Him and said to them in parables How can Satan cast out Satan
  - a) NOTICE: He confronts them directly: They did not approach Him
    - 1) He deals with their accusation that Satan is casting out Satan
- IX) V24-25 IF: A kingdom is divided against itself that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided
  - a) NOTICE: He Reveals the logical absurdity: Division *undermines* effectiveness
    - 1) EVERY KINGDOM DIVIDED AND CITY: Represents Government (Mt 12:25 adds city)
    - 2) EVERY HOUSE: Families
    - 3) POINT: For human government or family to work effectively, unity is necessary
- I) V26 AND: If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided he cannot stand but has an end
  - 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
- II) HIS QUESTION: Why would Satan undermine his own kingdom?
- 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!
- 2) 2 Ti 2:26 (The gospel makes it possible for people to) come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will
- III) V27 NO ONE: Can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the
- a) HIS POINT: Men have voluntarily become Satan's dwelling place, through sin
- 1) It is Jesus, and Jesus alone, who can deliver from the power of this bondage
- 2) SO: When Satan is cast out, Jesus purifies and dwells in the heart (1 Co 3:16)
- 3) Eph 3:17 (Paul prayed) that *Christ* may dwell in your hearts through faith
- IV) THE FACT IS: They rejected Jesus, not on evidence but because they simply *refused to believe*
- a) This reveals their hardness and bias against Him
- 1) This makes it a greater sin, in that they intentionally and willfully are resisting God's Spirit
- 2) 2 Co 4:3-4 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, *who do not believe*, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them
- V) V28-30 ASSUREDLY I SAY TO YOU: *All sins* will be forgiven the sons of men and whatever
- a) KEY: Forgiveness is possible: Every sin you sin is forgivable, when confessed and repented of
- 1) Is 43:25 I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.
- 2) Heb 10:16-17 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them. Then He adds Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more
- VI) *THERE IS ONE SIN*: That will not ever be forgiven, in this world or the one to come
- a) IT IS: The Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit
- 1) Seeing Jesus' works, and attributing them to Satan while rejecting God's conviction of the Spirit
- 2) The Jewish legal experts claim that Jesus is demonic: He is exercising demonic authority
- VII) 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) Some cling to their religion, but do not cling to Jesus as the True Savior
- 2) 1 Jn 2:23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also
- VIII) FACT: To continually state that Jesus is not the Savior is to reject the salvation offered through Him
- a) Jonah 2:8 Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.
- IX) IF: You have ever wondered if you have committed this sin if you are concerned about it, you haven't
- a) If you only say you are concerned, but never repent you should be concerned