

## BLASPHEMY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Matthew 12:31-32)

### I. What blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is not.

- a. This sin, whatever it is, was described by our Lord as an unforgivable sin, or an unpardonable sin.
- b. Numerous descriptions of the unpardonable sin have been offered up by well-meaning individuals.
  - i. We have to remember what blasphemy is when discussing what the unpardonable sin is.
  - ii. Blasphemy is a sin of the mouth as we described: speaking against something, in this case, the Holy Spirit.
- c. Some have said that it is murder.
  - i. This definitely is a heinous sin, but it is not a sin of the mouth.
  - ii. Not only that, the Jews on the Day of Pentecost were accused and shown to be guilty of the murder of Jesus and were still offered pardon.
  - iii. Also, we know that David was forgiven of the sin of murdering Uriah the Hittite.
- d. Some have said that adultery is the unpardonable sin.
  - i. Again, as devastating as adultery is, it is not a sin of the mouth.
  - ii. Also, in a list of sins Paul gave recorded in 1 Corinthians 6, is adultery.
  - iii. After listing the sins, Paul said that some of the Corinthians were involved in those sins, of which adultery was one.
  - iv. He then reminded them they had been forgiven of those sins, including the sin of adultery.
- e. Some have said any blasphemous speech against any member of the Godhead is the unpardonable sin.
  - i. In our text, Jesus stated that any blasphemy could be forgiven, except blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
  - ii. Also, Paul described himself as a blasphemer who had obtained mercy (1 Timothy 1:13).
- f. Some have said that suicide is the unpardonable sin.
  - i. Suicide is not a sin of the mouth.
  - ii. Also, it may be that suicide is not always sinful.
  - iii. Man's first instinct is self-preservation and to go so violently against that most basic instinct may show the person was not in his/her right mind.
  - iv. No doubt, there are some instances where suicide is sinful, but I would greatly hesitate before broad-brushing everyone who commits suicide as having sinned.
  - v. But again, suicided does not fit the definition of a sin of the mouth.
- g. Some have said that backsliding or falling away is the unpardonable sin.
  - i. We may do this by sinning with our mouths, but it is not solely a sin of the mouth.

- ii. Also, Simon of Samaria, who sinned in offering to buy the ability to pass on miracles, was told to repent in Acts 8.
    - iii. James 5:19-20 offers hope to those who have fallen away from the faith.
  - h. Some have said that it is procrastination in obeying the gospel.
    - i. It is very faulty thinking to put off one's obedience to the gospel, and if one dies before doing so, who is in an accountable state, that one will be lost for eternity.
    - ii. We know that one can refuse to obey, but later, having thought more and studied more, can come to Christ.
  - i. One of the most popular ideas about this unpardonable sin is that it is a rejection of the Father's testimony of Jesus at one time, the Son's at a later point, and then later, a rejection of the Spirit's testimony of Jesus.
    - i. The illustration is given of a man who is drowning rejecting three offers of a rope thrown by three different people to save him.
    - ii. We must remember that an illustration does not prove doctrinal beliefs.
    - iii. This is not found anywhere in the context of the three texts in which blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is mentioned.
  - j. As we close this idea of what the sin is not, remember that whatever it is, it is unpardonable.
    - i. Notice Matthew 12:32.
    - ii. Jesus said you can't get forgiveness in this age, or in the age to come.
    - iii. This simply means you can't ever be forgiven of it.
    - iv. One commentator used the phrase, "absolutely never".
  - k. Though all of these sins mentioned will cost one his/her soul, none of them are the sin for which a person would absolutely never be forgiven.
- II. **What blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is.**
  - a. We have to use our definition of blasphemy to determine what it is, just like we used it to determine what it is not.
  - b. Remember that blasphemy is a sin of the mouth.
  - c. The Pharisees had seen a notable miracle that could not be denied.
    - i. It happened before a large crowd.
    - ii. It seems that the man in whom the evil spirit was dwelling was known to most of the crowd.
    - iii. It was known that the man could not hear or speak.
  - d. Some of the crowd asked if this was not the Son of David, the Messiah, because only He would do such miracles prophecy foretold.
  - e. The Pharisees could not argue that miracle had not occurred, they were not that stupid.
  - f. The only thing they could do was attack the source of power Jesus used to perform the miracle.
    - i. This is what they did.
    - ii. They accused Jesus of having the power of Satan, not of God.
  - g. If this was left unchecked it would have destroyed the basis for the kingdom of heaven – Jesus being the Son of God.

- h. In essence, what the Pharisees were doing was saying that Jesus was Satan incarnate, not God incarnate.
  - i. By attributing the power of Jesus to Satan and not the Holy Spirit, these Pharisees were guilty of committing blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.
  - j. Maxie Boren, a gospel preacher, wrote, “The context of Matthew 12:22ff shows clearly that this was indeed the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit – attributing the miracle done by Jesus to the power of the devil. Jesus said it was done by ‘the Spirit of God’ (verse 28) but they said it was done by Beelzebub.
  - k. This shows that the blasphemy of the Spirit was a singular sin that could be done by the Pharisees during the life of Jesus.
  - l. We do need to say that this sin, blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, is not the sin under consideration in 1 John 5:16-17.
    - i. John says there, that there is sin which is not unto death and a sin that is unto death.
    - ii. We are to pray for one but not the other.
    - iii. There is no textual connection to this passage and any passage referring to the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
    - iv. Earlier, John had written that we could receive forgiveness for all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)
    - v. The sin unto death in 1 John 5 is not a particular sin, but any sin for which forgiveness is not sought through repentance and confession.
    - vi. We can’t pray for forgiveness of the sin of someone who will not repent of the sin he or she committed.
    - vii. That sin, the unforgiven, unrepented of sin, leads to death.
- III. Can we commit blasphemy of the Holy Spirit today?**
- a. Jesus performed a notable miracle that could not be denied.
  - b. Some present did not deny it, but attacked the power by which Jesus performed the miracle.
  - c. They were guilty of blaspheming the Holy Spirit.
  - d. Based on all the evidence in these passages, I do not believe that one can commit this sin today.
    - i. The events and setting of the sin cannot be duplicated today.
      - 1. There are no miracles being performed and most assuredly, the Lord is not on earth to perform them.
      - 2. Also, there is no mention of this sin ever being committed after this incident.
        - a. We never read of it again in the New Testament or even a warning against it.
        - b. New converts are never warned about not committing it.

Material for this sermon came from several sources.