

# NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Sermon – The Inerrancy of The Bible, Pt 8-

### Is There an Unpardonable Sin?

Scripture: Matthew 12:22–30

04-29-2012

#### Blasphemes Against the Holy Spirit

Matthew 12:22–32 (NKJV) <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the Son of David?” <sup>24</sup> Now when the Pharisees heard *it* they said, “This *fellow* does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.” <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? <sup>27</sup> And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? Therefore they shall be your judges. <sup>28</sup> But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad. <sup>31</sup> “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men. <sup>32</sup> 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.

As Easter and the church anniversary has past, I want to pick back up on some of the difficult passages in the bible. The criteria I have been using is that the passage seems to be a contradiction, the passage is difficult to understand. These along with some other are used by some to prove that the bible is not inerrant.

In our focus passage there is a very controversial statement made by Jesus that seems to go against the teaching we heard concerning the forgiveness of sin. It is in verses 31-32

**Matthew 12:**<sup>31</sup> “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men. <sup>32</sup> 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 (Also in Mark 3:22-27)

If like you, I have been taught that there was no sin that the blood of Christ couldn't take away. I have heard some say that there is no such thing as an "Unpardonable sin". My problem with that thought is that the Bible says differently. Ergo some say that there is another contradiction.

While Jesus was teaching the multitudes

**V<sup>22</sup> 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.**

There are very few cases where Jesus healed a person with as many illnesses that this man had. No doubt he was very well known. It very well may be that those that brought him to Jesus perhaps tried bringing him to the Pharisees to at least cast out the demon.

In the presence of the multitude and the Pharisees Jesus healed the man.

**V<sup>23</sup> And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”**

This is the reason for Jesus performing miracles, it was to authentic His claim as the Son of God and validate His message.

Notice they said "the Son of David". The multitude and the Pharisees knew that the Messiah would be the "special" Son (linage) of David. There were many in the linage of David but they were looking for that special Son who would be the Christ.

**<sup>V24</sup> Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.**

The Pharisees, who sought and enjoyed being looked up to; they now feel they have competition with Christ. Christ did not come to compete nor does He call to His service men and women to compete with one another.

The Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub another name for Satan giving credit to Satan.

Get this now, they just saw the working of the Holy Spirit though Jesus to heal this man and they gave the credit to Satan and speaking irreverently and insulting about Jesus and the working of the Holy Spirit. This is called "blasphemy".

**blas•phe•my** \ 'blas-fə-mē\ *noun*

**1 a :** the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God

**2 :** irreverence toward something considered sacred or inviolable<sup>1</sup>

Let me give you a few examples of "Blasphemy" that we ourselves may be guilty of.

- When we use Gods name in vain, we are doing so with irreverence toward God.
- When it is said that Jesus is nothing more than another prophet or teacher. He is all that and more but they deny that He is the Son of God.
- I think that when we pray to God and our prayers are answered and we give credit to luck or right place right time.
- Any irreverence toward anything connected to God or Christ like Holy Communion, open sin in the church, disrespect of the church and its God appointed leaders, or the wanton disobedience to Gods commands.
- I insult Christ by claiming to be a Christian (follower of Christ) yet I do not live like it.

**<sup>V25</sup> But Jesus knew their thoughts, speaking of the Pharisees.**

He responded to them by telling them that it does not make sense for Satan to tear down his own house.

He is not speaking to the multitudes but directly to the Pharisees.

**<sup>V27</sup> And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast *them* out?**

This indicated that they on occasion cast out demons, and according to their logic they were agents Beelzebub.

He tells them by what power He has cast out the demons and they knew it.

**<sup>28</sup> But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.**

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<sup>1</sup> Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). *Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary*. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc.

Jesus makes the open case that He cast out demons by the Spirit of God. They had a glimpse of the kingdom of God. It was evident that there were those that were beginning to believe by asking each other, "could this be the Son of David?"

It is less of the person and more of the Holy Spirit that demons are cast out.

*Luke 9:49–50 (NKJV)* <sup>49</sup> Now John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us." <sup>50</sup> But Jesus said to him, "Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side."

Jesus goes on to say to the Pharisees and for the benefits of the multitudes and for us.

<sup>30</sup> **He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.**

We cannot straddle the fence. We are either with Jesus or we are not. Being with Jesus means we are with Him in our righteous thoughts, we are with Him by obeying His commands, we are with Him by supporting His church with our time, talent and treasure,

We are with Him by telling other the gospel to **help gather** others to the kingdom of God we are with Him when He is our Lord and Savior.

Quote: " If you are not part of the solution then you are part of the problem."

We as "Christians" are either with Christ or we are against Him. He says this more emphatically in Revelation 3:16

*Revelation 3:16 (NKJV)* <sup>16</sup> So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will **vomit you out of My mouth.**

Don't be a lukewarm Christian.

**V31 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men,**

Now all those blasphemies I mentioned were all directed at God or Jesus. They will be forgiven out of ignorance. The example is Paul.

*1 Timothy 1:13–14 (NKJV)* <sup>13</sup> although **I was formerly a blasphemer**, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. <sup>14</sup> And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

**V31b but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.**

Said again in V32 so that there is no question about it.

**V32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him**

Even the blasphemy against Jesus they will be allowed to be forgiven

This un-forgiveness covers those that do it in this age (time) and anyone that does so in the future age to come.

**v32 but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.**

Blasphemous words against the Holy Ghost are the worst kind of tongue-sins, and unpardonable<sup>2</sup> ...Those therefore who blaspheme this dispensation of the Spirit, cannot possibly be brought to believe in Christ; those who shall impute them to a collusion with Satan,

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<sup>2</sup> Henry, M. (1996). *Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible : Complete and unabridged in one volume* (Mt 12:22–37). Peabody: Hendrickson.

as the Pharisees did the miracles, what can convince them? This is such a strong hold of infidelity as a man can never be beaten out of, and is therefore unpardonable, because hereby repentance is hid from the sinner's eyes.<sup>3</sup> MH

*Hebrews 6:4–6 (NKJV)* <sup>4</sup> *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.*

The Pharisees tasted the goodness of God but chose to blaspheme the very power that allowed them to cast out demons.

*Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)* <sup>21</sup> *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, **have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’***

Those that do wonders, do so in the Name of Jesus by the power of the HS.

That is what the book of acts is about.

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<sup>3</sup> Henry, M. (1996). *Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible : Complete and unabridged in one volume* (Mt 12:22–37). Peabody: Hendrickson.

## A List of Topics We Already Addressed

Why didn't Adam and Eve physically die the day they ate of the forbidden fruit?

*Genesis 2:16–17 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*

CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS Arguments against the Bible and arguments in favor of the inerrancy of the Bible.

*Genesis 1:1–10 Evidence in the perfect order of creation*

Belief and unbelief -

*Mark 9:23–24 (NKJV) <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”*

Why did God put the forbidden Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden in the first place?

*Genesis 2:16–17 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*

A seemingly harsh statement by Jesus. “Let the dead bury their own dead,”

*Luke 9:59–60 (NKJV) <sup>59</sup> Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” <sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”*

The question whether it is better not to marry.

*Matthew 19:10 (NKJV) <sup>10</sup> His disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry.”*

How often should we forgive.

*Matthew 18:21 (NKJV) <sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”*

Is there an unforgiving sin?

*Matthew 12:32 (NKJV) <sup>32</sup> 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.*