

Committing The Unpardonable Sin

Matt. 12:22-32

Introduction

- Look at a text that is controversial, difficult, misunderstood, and to some very frightening.
- Some wonder if they have committed the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
 - What is it?
 - Is it saying that the Holy Spirit is evil? Denying the Deity of the Holy Spirit? Denying the existence of the Holy Spirit?
 - Is it a sin so heinous that regardless of what one might do, they find it impossible to be forgiven by God?
 - Does one have to say it, or can they just think it...
 - Or is it something else as borne out by the text?
- Lesson: Look at the text to get the answer to the question, as well as focusing on a couple of important principles of Bible interpretation.

I. Two Basic Principles of Bible Interpretation...

- **The Law of Harmony:** A passage must be understood in such a way that it agrees with the rest of the Bible.
 - The Bible is from God. It is His word. (II Tim. 3:16-17)
 - The word of God is truth. (Jn. 17:17) Truth is consistent with truth.
 - When I study a passage and reach a conclusion that does not agree with the rest of the Bible, I missed it, and need to look again.
 - This principle illustrated:
 - Rom. 3:28 → some reach conclusion that one is saved by faith only. Not what the verse teaches, and not in harmony with the rest of the Bible. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38, etc.)
 - I Thess. 4:16 → some reach the conclusion that there will be more than one resurrection. Not found in this text, and not in harmony with the rest of the scriptures. (Jn. 5:28-29; Acts 24:15)
 - Let's look at this text with the Biblical law of harmony in mind:
- Let's look at this text with the Biblical Law of harmony in mind:
 - Matt. 12:32 → Is Jesus setting the Holy Spirit on a higher level than himself, worthy of more reverence, honor...
 - I John 1:6 → The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin...
 - Mark 11:25 → God does not hold us to a higher standard than He does himself. (Eph. 4:32)
- **The Law of Context:** To properly understand a passage, we must study it in its context.
 - Get the big picture to shed light on the immediate context.
 - Looking at the context of Matt. 12:31-32:
 - Verse 22 → the context begins with Jesus performing a miracle.
 - Verse 23 → the crowd is amazed and responds by asking, "Is not this the Son of David?"
 - Verse 24 → The Pharisees make an absurd accusation against Jesus.
 - Verse 25 → Jesus answers and destroys their ridiculous charge. (cf. 28 → He was casting out demons by the power of the H.S. and this demonstrated his power over Satan. V-29)
 - Verse 30 → Since Jesus is opposing the devil, and they are opposing him, the Pharisees are the ones who are really in league with Satan.

II. What Had The Pharisees Done In Blaspheming The Holy Spirit?

- They had taken the Holy Spirit's work and attributed it to the Devil:
 - Verse 24 → ...this fellow
 - Verse 28 → ...I cast out demons by the Spirit of God...
- Why could they not be forgiven?
 - To understand, consider the purpose of the miracles. (Jn. 3:2)
 - The works proved the the claims of Jesus. (Jn. 10:37)
 - The miracles were God's unmistakable testimony that Jesus was His Son, and carried His message.
 - The Pharisees, upon being confronted with that evidence in Matt. 12, rather than believing, rejected it, and attributed the Spirit's work to the Devil...

- When one denies the testimony of the Spirit, there is nothing left to convince him of the truth.
- In the face of that rejection, they would not be forgiven.
 - Having denied the evidence, there would be nothing left to bring them to Jesus.
 - They manifested a heart that would not repent and seek forgiveness.
 - Jesus shows them just where the condition of their hearts had left them.