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The Unforgiveable Sin; Matt 12:22-32
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Introduction – The glorious gospel message of forgiveness is like a cool and steady rain to parched, dry earth. It is so thrilling that it can easily be thought to be too good to be true. That in Christ, each and every one of our transgressions against God are removed. That in Christ, we, the guilty, are declared to be not guilty! In Christ, our record of iniquities, no matter how many, be they millions upon millions, and no matter how depraved, be they the most vile and heinous imaginable – those numerous, horrendous sins are wiped from our record at the moment we embrace Christ.

Forgiveness. Forgiveness is the sweetest sound that can enter the sinner's ear!

The death of Christ is sufficient enough and the grace of God is extensive and deep and far-reaching enough that any sinner who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved! Oh, hear me sinner. You say you've sinned too many times for God to forgive. You say your sin is too dark and evil to ever be removed. You say there is no hope for you in the gospel. God says, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved!" (Rom 10:9) Oh, my friends, the gospel of forgiveness in Christ is truly the greatest news in the world today!

However, there is one sin that will not be forgiven. There is one line that once crossed cannot be uncrossed. There is one step that the hardened sinner can take that is one step too far. There is an unforgiveable sin, or an unpardonable sin.

Once a heart grows cold enough that it turns a blind eye and a closed ear to the gospel, no matter how abundant the evidence, no matter how clear the truth, there is no limit to how far that heart will go to reject the one and only Savior. It will go as far as to become insane with its conclusion and resolves. The heart soaked in sin is capable of becoming so callous that it would rather kill the gospel simply to keep from admitting its own utter depravity. And that is precisely what we are observing in the Pharisees' rejection in Matt 12. As the opposition to Jesus grows, it becomes more violent and more insane and more eternally dangerous.

- I. A Blasphemous Charge to an Amazing Miracle (vv22-24)
 - a. The fact that the blind and mute man could now speak and see was undeniable evidence that Jesus had miraculously released him from the power of evil and brought full restoration to his body. Jesus not only drove the evil presence away from the man, He also reversed the crippling curse of evil. This was amazing.
 - i. It wasn't some sort of scam or trick. This man was known by all to be in the grip of evil. He was known to be unable to see, unable to speak. And with just one encounter with Jesus, he is set free!
 - ii. That's what Jesus does – He sets us free from the grip of sin and the power of evil!
 - iii. No one can do what Jesus did – there is no denying, He must be God.
 - b. And so the people who were eyewitnesses to this man's complete transformation are in awe. And they rightly interpret this display of Jesus' authority. They ask, "Can this be the Son of David?" The miracle is pointing them to the deity of Christ, and they know it.
 - c. But not the hardened Pharisees. NO matter how great the miracle. No matter how clear the message of the miracle. They are determined to reject Jesus. So in their futile effort to stem the tide and turn the people away from following and worshipping Jesus, they make an audaciously, ridiculous claim.
 - d. And as with all of their trumped-up charges meant to discredit Jesus, He totally refutes their arrogant, blasphemous charge.

- II. Jesus Challenges the Pharisees' Charge (vv25-28)
 - a. "knowing their thoughts" Let's pause here for just a moment. Jesus was not only hearing their words, He was reading their minds. He was hearing their hearts. He was dissecting and exposing their inner, secret motivations. That should have given them great pause but it didn't.
 - i. The deity of Christ was proven not only in an outward display of His authority over the spiritual and physical realm, but also in the depths of the human heart where no one can go but you and God.

- b. Vv25-26 – the ridiculous nature of their charge. It makes no sense. Satan is evil, but he's not stupid.
 - c. V27 – not only was their charge ridiculous, it was ironically hypocritical. They were about to get caught in the trap they set for Jesus.
 - i. Wait a minute. Their sons, their followers claim the ability to cast out demons. So if they want to be consistent, then they would be forced to also charge their followers with demonic influence!
 - ii. That's exactly where sin will inevitable land. The Christian worldview is the only consistent worldview. Every other thought system fails and becomes inconsistent and illogical and irrational and self-defeating at some point. The Pharisees have now reached that point.
 - d. V28 – Jesus strategically reveals the error and destructive end of their position!
- III. Jesus Shatters the Pharisees' Charge (vv29-30)
- a. V29 - The only way you can walk into Satan's territory and domain and disarm him is if you are greater than him!
 - i. That's how Jesus casts out demons. He reigns over Satan and evil and every dark force on the earth! He is greater!
 - ii. Col 2:15
 - b. V30 – Jesus draws the line in the sand. Stop and think about who you are opposing. If I have all authority over Satan, then I have all authority over you! Do you really want to be against me?
 - i. And Jesus turns the tables. I am not the one in league with Satan. If you are against me, as Satan is against me, then it is actually you who are working for the evil one!
- IV. When Rejection of Jesus Goes Too Far (vv31-32)
- a. Cf v18. The Spirit of God was the instrument whereby the Son of God exercised His authority over all things. So ultimately, the Pharisees were not condemning Jesus, they were condemning the Spirit.
 - b. What is the unforgiveable sin? To attribute the work of God as a work of Satan. To give Satan credit for something that only God can do!

- c. There is no sin that cannot be forgiven – that is good news!
- d. But there is one sin that will not be forgiven – not only in this life but in the life to come!
- e. That raises 2 questions.
 - i. Can a believer commit the unforgiveable sin?
 1. Listen to me, all those who are faint of heart. Cf. v20. Some believers hear of the unforgiveable sin and they worry themselves to death over it. Oh, I hope I've never done that. Oh I'm afraid I may do that.
 2. No believer has ever or will ever commit this sin. You know why I know that to be absolutely true? Because no true believer will ever look at the work of God and call it Satanic. In fact, when the true believer hears someone condemn the work of God with such hatred and vitriol, they shutter.
 3. Is it possible though preacher that I may have committed this sin before I accepted Christ. No, it is not. The fact that you love Christ now is evidence that you never crossed that line. You see, dear friends, God knew you were going to be His child long before you knew. He keeps us from committing the unforgiveable sin.
 - ii. What about someone who commits this sin and then later desires to repent and be saved?
 1. The answer is that never happens. Once someone goes that far in their rejection of Christ, they never will turn from their path of utter soul destruction.
- f. The only people who ever commit this sin are the ones who will never repent and believe. In fact, its not this sin that keeps them from believing and repenting. It's their hardened hatred of truth that leads them to commit this sin.

Conclusion – Stop holding on to your sin. It will only take you down a path of no return. Cling to Christ today! He is your salvation. He is your life! You can be forgiven today!