



The Unpardonable Sin Mark 3:13-35

July 7, 2019
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Well it most certainly is good to be back home and be serving this church as Lead Pastor. This past week was catch up week for me physically and ministerial and I am very grateful to those people of the church who helped serve and lead as I was away. I believe a good healthy church is body of believers who #1 has a godly vision and biblical strategy to reach that vision fully and effectively; #2 has the humility and obedience to be a sending church even if it means sending its own people or leaders; #3 has the persistence to exercise salvation in fear and trembling while being able to fully function during the absence of its own leaders. May First Baptist continue to pursue what it takes to be a healthier church. If you have your Bibles with you today, turn with me to read a portion of scripture concerning the Unpardonable Sin.

*And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." ²³ And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. ²⁸ "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— ³⁰ for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit." **Mark 3:22-30***

When I was in South Asia, I became humble as I spent more and more time with other followers of Jesus and some of the IMB personnel there as they were doing daily ministry. I saw passion, grit, endurance and faith that was heavily necessary for a people who might face heavy persecution at any given moment especially those who recently are becoming followers of Jesus. Leading up to the passage we just read, there are verses I want to highlight before we investigate Jesus' teachings on the unpardonable or "unforgiveable" sin. In verses 13-21, we see Jesus calling out to the twelve men whom he appointed as "the twelve" and as apostles. The significance of the number "twelve" could hardly be missed. Similar to the 12 tribes of Israel, Jesus was

setting up the foundation of the renewed Israel through 12 men; known as the church. Apostles or “messengers” were chosen and sent by Jesus. What stood them out from any other follower of Jesus was the time they spend with the earthly Jesus, which was a time of preparation. Notice, **The choice of the APOSTLES has its origin in Jesus’ determined PURPOSE.** There are no apostles today, though some Christians fulfill ministries that are in particular ways apostolic in style. The apostles exercised a unique authority in the church much different than anyone else in history.

*And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. ¹⁴ And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and have authority to cast out demons. ¹⁶ He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter);¹⁷ James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); ¹⁸ Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. **Mark 3:13-19***

When did you have passion for following Jesus? When was the last time you were so zealous in your faith people were so drawn to your presence or ready to listen to what Christ has done in your life recently. When was the last time you experienced unquestionable healing, provision or calling from God? Those moments are humbling, real and consistent when Jesus is Lord over your life. I remember when the Lord saved me at young age. I remember when God put passion and purpose in my heart. I remember when God called me to ministry at the age of 17 and at 19 years old, the Lord put a verse in my heart to live out for the rest of my days. I remember the evening I was called me to Missions at 22 and how God made me usable for His work near and far. I am called as a missionary to do Pastoral work and strengthen churches where the Lord calls me to serve. I truly believe I am here because the Lord God had desired me to be here now. A poor ole country boy from Arkansas who never stepped foot on an airplane until he was 18 years old, was scarred of heights, struggled with anxiety as a teenager and child with painful childhood memories. You or I may not be called to do the same work as the Apostles but even Paul expounds that **God calls those of His DESIRING or “determining” for salvation by grace through faith** in Romans 8:28-29.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

This purpose and wisdom of God that any man may obtain does not come from experience or research. **WISDOM and PURPOSE is the result of RESCUE and RELATIONSHIP.** Praise God for His rescue for us and renewed relationship with us. But as we read the next verses again, we see this rejection of the powerful work by Spirit of God in Jesus. First, we see Jesus’ closest friends and associates saying He was irrational

or had lost His mind. *[Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. 21 And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind." Mark 3:20-21]* Jesus' friends wanted to restrain Jesus for His own good and protection, which would ultimately stop the work and ministry. **FRIENDS or FAMILY may MISUNDERSTAND the work of God's Spirit.** Much ministry work is usually misunderstood when compared to earthly patterns of success.

And his mother and his brothers came and standing outside they sent to him and called him. 32 And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you."33 And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"34 And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother." Mark 31-35

In verse 31-35, Jesus is not disowning His earthly mother and brothers, but is making a decisive and comprehensive statement on true Christian discipleship. There is a spiritual relationship that transcends the physical family and is open to all who are empowered by the Spirit of God to come to Christ in repentance and faith becoming a part of the family of God. Now, I love my mom and would consider myself as a true mother's boy. My mom was the main person I called for years when I went to college and when I became homesick for the first time in a foreign country, I wanted to call my mother. As I grew in obedience to God's Word, I realize the tremendous love I have for my family and mom I now share that same love for other believers.

Secondly, the Scribes or "lawyers skilled in the law" accused Jesus of casting out demons in the power of Satan. **COMMUNITY or NEIGHBORS may completely REJECT the work of God's Spirit.** In this context of verse 22, the Scribes deliberately associated the power and work of Jesus as the power and work of Satan or the Greek name "Beelzebul". This was considered the act of unforgiveable blasphemy for this life now and the life to come. What they meant by their words was more damaging than the words themselves. **The unforgiveable sin is HARDENING one's heart in a way that makes repentance, and therefore FORGIVENESS, impossible.** Jesus answered the Scribes with truth and authority in His words. Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God has come, for one stronger than the "strong man" is here, able to bind Satan and to free people from his kingdom. Therefore, the power and good work of casting out demons were not of Satan because all demons are of Satan. There is no demon that is good. Also, God has created all of these Spirits and has power over them even though they continue to deny and reject God.

In verse 28-30, Jesus gives the penalty of blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, "the rejection of God never has forgiveness. God is able to forgive all sins we ever do, think, or say including the things we should do but do not. However, what makes this sin different from others is its relation to the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit's work to enlighten the mind of sinners, to reveal and teach the gospel, persuading souls to repent and believe the truth. The spirit not only explains the Word of God, but He opens the mind

so that it is perceived. When this influence is deliberately and knowingly refused, the irreversible sin can be committed. God permits the decision of the human will to be permanent in this case as a response against His love. Anyone who has been born again will not commit this sin, because the Spirit lives in that person, and God is not divided against Himself. This is not a common, everyday matter but it does happen. *"No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God."* **1 John 3:9** Paul gives hope of salvation to those once blasphemed but then repented in **1 Timothy 1:13-14** saying, *"though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."*

Jesus made a way for you and I to be rescued and have an eternal relationship with God. He is patient, loving, kind and good. *"It is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."* Let us continue praying for salvation of the lost and understanding about the power and work of the Holy Spirit. Again, may First Baptist continue to pursue what it takes to be a healthier church.