

Matthew 12:22-37

“The Kingdom and the Unpardonable Sin”

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Each of us realizes that we've done wrong. We may have done some things that seemed so bad that we wondered whether we committed the unforgivable sin. No reasonable person wants to commit the unpardonable sin. Today, we discover how to avoid committing the unpardonable sin.

Discussion Qs

1. In what ways do people in our culture deny the power of God
2. Why might Jesus make it clear that there is no neutral position (you are either for Him or against Him)?
3. In what ways do you see words and works reveal a person's heart towards God?
4. How have your words and works been transformed since coming to Christ?
5. How would you like your words, works, and walk to be transformed this year?

Jesus is our king and the calling realm:

When Jesus is your king you seek to serve God by serving others. As part of the Calvary Nexus community we encourage you to serve at the church (or a Para-church organization) an average of one-hour a week.

Intro. Each of us realizes that we've done wrong. We may have done some things that seemed so bad that we wondered whether we committed the unforgivable sin. No reasonable person wants to commit the unpardonable sin. Today, we discover how to avoid committing the unpardonable sin.

Subject: The unpardonable sin

Object: Receive God's work and Spirit

Context:

I. Rejection of God's work [22-32]: Denying the power of God

A. Jesus displays the power of God [22-23] 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. ²³ And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

1. Jesus healing of a demon-possessed blind mute was evidence of Messiah

- a. Rabbinic tradition was only Messiah could cast out demon from a mute
- b. The multitudes were amazed and wondered whether Jesus is the Messiah

B. Jesus’ enemies deny the power of God [24] Now when the Pharisees heard *it* they said, “This *fellow* does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons: Pharisees accuse Jesus of performing miracles by the power of Beelzebub: Lord of the flies - Satan the ruler of the demons

1. Jesus’ enemies attribute His work to something other than God

- a. good luck, coincidence, self-discipline, emotions

In what ways do people in our culture deny the power of God?

C. Jesus confirms the power of God shows God’s kingdom has come [25-29]

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? Jesus shows that He is not casting out demons by Satan’s power since the devil would be defeating himself [25-26] ²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? Therefore they shall be your judges. The Pharisees were hypocrites since they also cast out demons [27] [Jewish exorcists Ac.19:13-16]. ²⁸ But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ 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.

1. Since Jesus’ works are by God’s Spirit then God’s kingdom has come [28]

2. Jesus is able to cast out the demon because He is greater than Satan [29]

D. Jesus compels a choice [30] He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

1. If not submitted to Jesus than you are opposed to Him No neutral place

- a. He who is not with Me is against Me If not submitted to Christ than you are serving Satan
- b. he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad If not active in advancing God’s kingdom you are opposing the work of God

II. Rejection of God’s Spirit [31-32]: The unpardonable sin Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy

against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. ³² 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.

A. The unpardonable sin is rejecting the work of the Holy Spirit drawing you to Christ [Jn. 16:7-11]

1. Forgiveness of all sin is available to those who receive Christ:

- a. Backsliding is not the unpardonable sin
- b. A person who is concerned about the unpardonable sin hasn’t committed it

2. The time to respond to God is now: Don’t harden your heart to God

- a. My Spirit will not always strive with man [Gen. 6:6]

III. Revelation of God's Work [33-37]

A. The nature of works reveals your heart toward God [33] [Matt. 7:16-19]

1. A tree is known by its fruit [33] Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.

- a. Jesus' good works (e.g. healing, casting out demons) reveal His nature Pharisees
- b. The Pharisees opposition to Jesus reveal their hearts toward God

B. The nature of words reveals your heart towards God [34-37] [Col. 4:6, Ps.39:1]

1. Your words reveal what you feel and think generally and about God [34] Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

- a. The Pharisees' words @ Jesus reveal a **Brood of vipers** – offspring of snakes [34]

2. Your words about Jesus will be right if your heart is right with God [35]

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

- a. Repetition of "good" and "evil" 3x [34-35] for contrast

3. Your words about Jesus likely reveal whether you are saved or not [36-37] But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

- a. Blasphemous words against God tend to reveal that someone is not saved

i. **idle words:** Blasphemous words against God

- b. **Cf.** Jesus paid the penalty for careless words at the cross for believers [32]

i. Sound waves never cease they merely diminish in intensity – words go on forever

In what ways do you see words and works reveal a person's heart towards God?

ii. Can't clean your moth by brushing your teeth, you need to change your heart

C. Receiving God's work and Spirit [33] Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or...

1. You can choose to make the tree good by choosing to receive Christ

a. **Acknowledge God's work, yield to the work of His Spirit leading you to Him**

b. Submit to Christ + receive God's Spirit [salvation + regeneration] [Rom. 10:9-10]

2. Your choice is revealed by your words, works, and walk (life)

a. **A good tree yields good fruit: Ps.1**

i. How have your words and works been transformed since coming to Christ?

ii. How would you like your words, works, and walk to be transformed this year?