

BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus told the teachers of the law that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit was an *unforgivable sin*, an *eternal sin* (**Mark 3:29**). Many Christians through the years have been perplexed by that assertion, wondering whether they have engaged in sin that cannot be forgiven. The words of Jesus and the New Testament gospel message shed light on what is unforgivable and what is not.

Unforgivable Sin of the Pharisees

The encounter prompting Jesus to talk about the unforgivable sin is found in **Mark 3:20-30** and **Matthew 12:22-32**. Teachers of the law, Pharisees, were most always present with those who followed Jesus. They tagged along more than just out of curiosity. They wanted to hear what Jesus taught and see what he did, hoping to entrap him in some violation of the Jewish law. On many occasions they saw Jesus casting out evil spirits from those possessed and setting them free. Jesus had just performed such an exorcism as recorded in **Matthew 12:22-23**.

In this particular biblical incident, the Pharisees said, “He (Jesus) is possessed by Beelzebub! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons” (**Mark 3:22**). Jesus told them, “How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come” (**Mark 3:23-26**). Then Jesus said the words that would be remembered most throughout history, “I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. **But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin**” (**Mark 3:28-29**, emphases added).

If record of the conversation would have ended there, confusion about what Jesus said may have remained. But one more thing was recorded making it crystal clear what Jesus meant, “He said this because they were saying, “He has an evil spirit”” (**Mark 3:30**). The Pharisees were purposely attributing the work of the Holy Spirit of God through Jesus to be that of the devil, the demonic world. Even though the presence of God was bodily present with them, and they personally saw healings and miracles, they defiantly and irreverently said Jesus was demon possessed rather than filled with the

Spirit. That was the unforgivable sin of which the Pharisees were guilty. They had rejected the power and the grace God was extending to them.

Unforgivable Sin Today

Today, Jesus is seated in heaven (**Ephesians 1:19-20**). He is not *bodily* present on the earth to be accused, face to face, as he was by the Pharisees. That incident cannot be duplicated today. But Jesus indicated that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit would continue to be a possibility even after he left this world for heaven. Jesus said, “Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come” (**Matthew 12:31-32**, emphasis added).

Even though persons today cannot directly blaspheme the Holy Spirit like the Pharisees did, they can still reject the power and the grace of God extended to them through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. The Holy Spirit is very active in speaking to the hearts of men, women, and children, convicting them of sin and of their need to accept the salvation of God offered through Jesus Christ. Jesus told his disciples at the Last Supper, “when he (the Holy Spirit) comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment . . . when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth” (**John 16:8-13**). To continually reject, in unbelief, the promptings of truth by the Holy Spirit is to reject God.

Some of the most remembered words of Jesus are, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (**John 3:16**). Within this statement, a choice is indicated – embrace and believe the promptings of the Holy Spirit about Jesus and receive eternal life or reject the Holy Spirit speaking to you and perish. Before the ministry of Jesus, John the Baptist revealed this truth as well (**John 3:31-36**).

Closing Thoughts

According to Jesus, most every sin is forgivable, “every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men” (**Matthew 12:31**). The apostle Paul said, “if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (**Romans 10:9**). Your sins will be forgiven *forever* by God’s grace. All of your sins are removed from the presence of God as far as the east is from the west and He remembers them no more (**Psalms 103:11-12**). As a result, you will be in the presence of God in the heavenly places for eternity (**Ephesians 2:4-7**).

But remember the added words of Jesus, “**anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come**” (Matthew 12:31-32, (emphasis added)). Through the centuries, many have rejected the work of the Holy Spirit of God through Jesus Christ and will suffer the consequences for that choice. **Rejection of our Holy God is unforgivable.** Do not be part of that group. Embrace the message the Holy Spirit is speaking to your heart, and you will find **true life**, eternal life.

This is an introduction on the subject of **Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit**. Here are a few other resources you may wish to explore:

[What is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit - What is it? \(compellingtruth.org\)](#)

[The Unforgivable Sin - 10 Things You Need To Know \(crosswalk.com\)](#)

[What is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? - NeverThirsty](#)

[11 Bible verses about Blasphemy, Against The Holy Spirit \(knowing-jesus.com\)](#)

[Matthew 12:22-45 ESV - Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit - Bible Gateway](#)