

## 10. Jesus Taught About the Unpardonable Sin

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn why Jesus chose the Twelve. We also saw that we want our children to understand why the people had many different opinions about Jesus. In this topic, we are going to see what Jesus taught about the unpardonable sin.

We have seen that the scribes and Pharisees that came from Jerusalem were looking for an excuse to accuse Jesus. Mark 3:22-27 says, “And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He has Beelzebub,’ and, ‘By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.’ So He called them to *Himself* and said to them in parables: ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end. No one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.’” Jesus knew the thoughts that the scribes and Pharisees were thinking, and so, He spoke a parable to them.

Matthew 12:24-25 says, “Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, ‘This *fellow* does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.’ 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.’” In many places in the Old Testament, we see that Baal was the god of the Philistines. The name “Baal-Zebul” originally meant “*Baal, the prince*”. However, the Jews changed that name just slightly to mock the Philistines and called their god “Baal-Zebub” which means “*Lord of the Flies*.” Here, we see that the scribes used this name to say that Jesus was possessed by this prince of the demons and that was who gave Him the power to cast out demons.

Jesus began by asking the scribes and Pharisees a question. Jesus said, “How can Satan cast out Satan?” Instead of using the name of the Philistine god, Jesus showed that Satan is the one who gives power to the demons that work to do evil through false gods. Jesus asked if Satan would fight against himself. Then, Jesus gave some illustrations of what Satan would be doing if he was divided against himself. When a kingdom is divided, so that the people are fighting against each other, that kingdom cannot stand. The same is true in a family. A family that is divided and having conflict among themselves cannot stand. Jesus said the same thing is true of Satan. If Satan is divided against himself, he will never be able to stand. In fact, Jesus said that his kingdom has an end.

Then, Jesus said, in Mark 3:27, “No one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.” Three times in the book of John, Jesus called Satan the ruler of this world – John 12:31, John 14:30 and John 16:11. John 12:31-32 says, “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself.” Jesus entered the world Satan was ruling so He could defeat Satan. Then, Hebrews 2:14-15 says, “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through

death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Here, we see that Jesus came to set the prisoners of Satan free. Then, when Jesus said “It is finished” as He hung on the cross, Jesus showed why the Holy Spirit can convince the world that Satan has already been judged as stated in John 16:11. Satan knows that he only has a short time until that sentence will be carried out and he will experience eternal judgment.

After telling the scribes about the coming judgment of Satan, Jesus then spoke to the scribes and warned them about the judgment that they faced because they did not repent, even though they knew He was God. Mark 3:28-30 says, “‘Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation’— because they said, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’” The one thief on the cross blasphemed Jesus, but when He recognized that Jesus was God, he repented and said, “Lord, remember me when you come into Your kingdom.” Jesus responded, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.” He blasphemed Jesus, but was forgiven when He recognized that Jesus was Lord.

In contrast, these scribes knew that Jesus is God, but they were afraid of losing their power over the people and refused to believe in Jesus. John 16:8-11 says, “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” John 16:9 shows that the one sin that separates man from God is the sin of unbelief. The Holy Spirit convicted the hearts of these scribes, and they refused to believe. The Holy Spirit also convinces unbelievers of the fact that Jesus Christ is the Righteous One. These scribes saw that Jesus was sinless, yet they refused to believe. Today, the Holy Spirit convinces unbelievers of the fact that Satan has already been judged and that those who continue to follow him will share in his judgment. Jesus was present with these scribes. The Holy Spirit was convicting them, but they refused to repent of their sin of unbelief and place their faith in Jesus, even though they knew He is God.

Jesus was present and the Holy Spirit was convicting these scribes and Pharisees. However, they chose to reject the fact that Jesus had cast out demons by the power of God. Instead, they blasphemed the Holy Spirit and refused to be convicted because of their sin of unbelief. Forgiveness was available to them that day, but they were rejecting the opportunity to receive that forgiveness. As a result, they were facing eternal condemnation. John 3:36 says, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” That day, Jesus made it clear to those men that they faced eternal condemnation.

After Jesus had finished warning the scribes and Pharisees, He received a message. Mark 3:31-35 says, “Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, ‘Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You.’ But He answered them, saying, ‘Who is My mother, or My brothers?’ And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, ‘Here are My

mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.” Matthew 13:55 tells us that Jesus had four half-brothers. That verse says, “Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?” Those half-brothers would have been born to Mary and Joseph sometime after the birth of Jesus.

It was Mary, and these brothers, who had sent a message into the house to let Jesus know that they were outside and wanted to talk to Him. Instead of going outside to talk to them immediately, Jesus used this opportunity to teach about the relationship His disciples had to Him. Jesus did not put down or criticize His mother or His brothers. Instead, He elevated His followers by the question He asked and the answer He gave to that question. Jesus asked the question, “Who is My mother, or My brothers?” What we see is that Jesus included His disciples as a part of His family, as He pointed to His disciples sitting around Him.

Jesus does the same thing for us today. Romans 8:14-17 says, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.” In these verses, we are reminded that we are children of God. We have become joint heirs with Christ. We will one day be glorified together with Him.

However, in addition to elevating all true believers and placing them in His family, we see that Jesus also explained that our lives will be changed and transformed as we grow in Him. Jesus concluded what He said with Mark 3:35, which says, “For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.” Here, we see that a true believer has a desire to do the will of God. Many immature Christians often say that they have that desire, but they feel that Romans 7:19-20 expresses the way they act. Those verses say, “For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.” Such Christians feel that they are failures because they are trying to do the will of God in their own strength. Romans 7:15-25 uses the words, “I, me, my and myself” about thirty-seven times in these verses.

In Romans 8, the Holy Spirit is mentioned nineteen times and verses 28 through 39 use the words “we, us and our” fourteen times. During the times we yield our human spirit to the Holy Spirit, we are able to experience the blessings of Romans 8:37 moment-by-moment. Romans 8:37 says, “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” We want to help our physical and spiritual children come to really understand the blessings of being included in the family of Jesus. We want to show them how to experience joy in their lives more and more of the time, as they learn to yield to the Holy Spirit moment-by-moment. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to experience the blessings of being in the family of Jesus.