

SINNING AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: Mark 3:28-30

Intro: One of the best known, yet least understood teachings of Jesus is that of our text. The sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, Jesus says is a sin that cannot be forgiven in "this world [age] or in the world [age] to come." In this lesson, we shall address ourselves to the matter of understanding the Lord's teaching regarding this sin, and also other sins against the Spirit of God.

I. BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A. Define: to blaspheme is to speak against, to revile, to slander.

B. In this case, as in all cases, the real test of the meaning of the Lord's teaching is to take note of the context & circumstances surrounding His words.

1. The individuals of whom Christ spoke were eye-witnesses of His miracles, vs. 22.

2. They could not deny the effects of Christ's power, so they impugned its source. Compare Acts 4:16, "What shall we do to these men? For indeed, that a notable miracle has been done thru them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it..."

3. It is my conviction that their exact same sin cannot be duplicated today in the absence of miracles. Similar sins, yes. The same sin, no.

a. To refuse to believe the Bible, the eye-witness accounts of the miracles of Christ by His prophets & apostles is a great and dangerous sin, the sin of unbelief, John 8:24.

b. But this is not the same sin as committed by those who saw the miracles of God with their own eyes & then attributed God's power to Satan.

c. Many have disbelieved the eyewitness accounts for a time including the apostle Thomas, yet have later come to believe & be saved. John 20:24-25, etc. Saul of Tarsus.

II. RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT. READ ACTS 7:51-53.

A. The patriarchs had rejected Joseph, vs. 9.

B. The "Fathers" rejected Moses repeatedly, vs. 35, 39.

C. Ancestors had rejected & persecuted all God's messengers, vs. 52.

D. In rejecting God's prophets, the Jews were resisting the H.S. 2 Peter 1:20-21

E. Likewise, even today, those who reject the message of the H.S. thru the writings of the apostles & prophets are resisting the Holy Spirit.

III. GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT. READ EPH. 4:25-32

A. Lying, vs. 25.

B. Sins committed in anger, vs. 26-27.

C. Stealing, vs. 28.

D. Corrupt language, vs. 29.

E. In short, failing to live in harmony with the revelation of the H.S. thus jeopardizing our relationship with God, grieves the Holy Spirit.

IV. QUENCHING THE HOLY SPIRIT.

"Do not quench the Spirit." (1 Thess. 5:19).

A. The language of this verse suggests a comparison between the H.S. and fire, in that the Spirit can be quenched.

1. Like fire, the Spirit can be quenched by allowing His influence to be smothered out of our lives.

2. Also, the Spirit can be quenched by allowing the "fuel" to become exhausted.

B. In the context, the passage may particularly refer to gifts of the Spirit, vs. 20., "Do not despise prophecies." Compare 2 Tim. 1:6, "Stir up the gift..." as one might stir up a fire.

C. In principle, the Spirit reveals that we are to minister in accordance with our God-given talents & abilities, 1 Pet. 4:11. Anything that would hinder and detract from the proper use of such abilities would, in effect, be putting out the fire of the Spirit's influence in our lives. See Rev. 3:15-16.

V. LYING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. READ ACTS 5:1-6.

A. Teaching something, but not trying to practice it, MT 23:3.

B. Give, pray, fast, to be seen by men, Matt. 6:1, 5, 16.

C. Trying to sow one thing & reap another.
"God is not mocked" Gal 6:7.

CONCLUSION: Tho I am convinced that we cannot today commit the exact sin that is referred to as "the unpardonable sin," we can still commit grievous sins against the Holy Spirit by rejecting His revelation, and by not living in accordance with it. When such sins are committed, they need to be corrected as soon as we become aware of our guilt, lest we become hardened in our sin, and reach the point of no return.

La Porte, TX, August 14, 1977

Liberty Hill, TX, December 28, 1977

Exton, PA, May 1, 1988

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, July 24, 1994

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