

## The Unforgivable Sin-Mark 3:20-25 (2)

### *Introduction, outline*

- Scripture reading: Mark 3:20-35; Hebrews 10:25-31.
- Teaching text: Mark 3:20-35 (NASB1995)

**20** And He \*came home, and the crowd \*gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. **21** When His own people heard *of this*, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, “He has lost His senses.” **22** The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.” **23** And He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? **24** If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. **25** If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. **26** If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but [ ]he is finished! **27** But no one can enter the strong man’s house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house. **28** “Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; **29** but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— **30** because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.” **31** Then His mother and His brothers \*arrived, and standing outside they sent *word* to Him and called Him. **32** A crowd was sitting around Him, and they \*said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You.” **33** Answering them, He \*said, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” **34** Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He \*said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! **35** For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

- When a man declares himself to be God, he is either lunatic, liar, or Lord. Jesus could not have been just a good moral teacher. Jesus' family think he's a lunatic; the religious leaders think he's a liar. What do you think?

### Outline

#### Title: **The Unforgivable Sin-Mark 3:20-25 (2)**

1. A Ridiculous Accusation (v.22)
2. A Powerful Rebuttal (v.23-27)
3. An Eternal Condemnation (v.28-30)

### **A Ridiculous Accusation (v.22)**

- “The scribes who came down from Jerusalem”: The scribes were the academic authority of the Pharisees. The religious rules of the Pharisees mainly came from the teachings of the scribes. The Pharisees themselves were the elites of Judaism, and the scribes were the elites of the elites. The scribes here came from Jerusalem, the holy city, so they are the best among the elites.

They have been following Jesus, paying close attention to His words and deeds, and must have seen many miracles of Jesus with their own eyes. Therefore, they could not say that Jesus was

just crazy, like the family of Jesus did. Crazy people can't perform miracles. But they surely cannot admit Jesus is God, because if they did, they'd have to accept all of Jesus' teachings, to confess their sins, and to admit that their teachings and lives are completely corrupt. What about Jesus' miracles? They have only one option left.....

- “He is possessed by Beelzebul”: “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.”: His power is not from heaven, but from hell. The scribes are spreading this rumor among the crowd. Whenever Jesus performs a miracle, they'll tell people in the back that He did it by the ruler of the demons. That's why later the crowd asked Jesus for a sign from heaven. (Luke 11:16)

As soon as the scribes came up with this lie, it immediately became popular in the crowd. They hold on to this absurd theory as a defense shield, with which they block out the true identity and teaching of Jesus on the one hand, and on the other, they hide their evil heart behind so others can't see it, and they can appear to have good reasons to reject Jesus!

**【Consider】** What excuses do unbelievers use today as a shield? That the Evolution Theory proves the Bible wrong? That science proves the earth evolved randomly over hundreds of millions of years? Nonsense! Doesn't the evidence abundantly prove that God created the world? The wonder of the human body, the vastness of the universe, don't they shout loudly that the Creator is infinitely powerful and wise? And yet, when someone makes up his mind to reject God and not repent, even the most ridiculous excuse can be used as a shield.

### **A Powerful Rebuttal (v.23-27)**

- “And so He called them to Himself”: This indicates what the scribes just said were private discussions. They didn't say it to Jesus' face. Their strategy is to spread rumors behind his back and influence the judgment of the crowd. But Jesus takes them on to expose their folly, and to issue a most severe warning to the crowd, so that some who heard it might wake up to the truth!
- “How can Satan cast out Satan?”: Hey! Wake up! What kind of ridiculous logic is this? You mean, I was possessed by Satan, and then I used Satan who possessed me to attack Satan's own subordinates? Is Satan stupid? Did he possess me just to obey me, so that I could use him to kill his own subordinates? Is this your conclusion? Are you stupid like that?
- “And if a kingdom is divided against itself...”: Be it a kingdom or a family, if people fight against their own people, the result is always self-destruction. This is common sense. Everyone knows it. If a couple is constantly at each other's neck all day long, sooner or later something big will happen. A pastor once said: The church has not paid enough attention to this principle, otherwise there wouldn't have been so many unnecessary conflicts.
- “And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished!”: Truth is, Satan has been active for thousands of years, which shows that the team of Satan is very united. How could it possibly destroy itself? You are absolutely crazy to say that. How foolish can sin make one to be! In order to resist the truth, sinners will not hesitate to invent excuses that are completely contrary to common sense.

**【Consider】** People often say: I will believe in Jesus if he does this or that. In fact, even if Jesus did this or that, you would still make up excuses against him, unless God gives you a heart to love the truth!

- “unless he first ties up the strong man, and then he will plunder his house”: the strong man is Satan, and the furniture plundered is the demons cast out by Jesus. Jesus has cast out the demons, proving that Satan has been subdued by Jesus.

## **An Eternal Condemnation (v.28-30)**

- “Truly I say to you”: Speaking to the crowd. Having heard such a clear and powerful argument, if they still choose to side with the scribes and hold on to their made-up theory and continue to use it as a shield to resist the truth of Jesus, then their end is eternal condemnation. That's what these three verses mean.
- “all sins will be forgiven the sons and daughters of men, and whatever blasphemies they commit”: Before discussing what is "blasphemy against the Holy Spirit," don't miss this wonderful promise! All sins! All can be forgiven! David was an adulterer, a liar, and a murderer; Peter denied his Lord three times; Paul was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent aggressor—all of them are fully forgiven!
- “but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”: The result of misunderstanding this is either unnecessary panic or unwarranted ease. Some people are not what this verse describes but they put themselves in these shoes, causing unnecessary panic; others ought to hear the most serious warning from here, but they think it has nothing to do with them.

**【Three questions】** 1. What does the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit refer to specifically in this passage? Why is it never to be forgiven? 2. Is it even possible for people today to commit the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit in the most strict sense as described here? 3. If it is not possible, is there a similar sin that people today can still commit that may really cause people to lose the hope of salvation?

1. In the context, the Holy Spirit proves that Jesus is the Messiah with powerful miracles and teachings. The Holy Spirit showed them all the evidence that could be shown, but they still covered their ears and closed their eyes, just not letting the facts speak for themselves.

Why do they never have forgiveness? Because they have made up their mind not to believe. No matter how strong the evidence is, they are unshakable in their unbelief. They'd rather believe a ridiculous lie than to believe in Jesus. Jesus is the only forgiveness of sin that God gives sinners. If they reject Jesus, the only forgiveness of sin, of course there is no way for them to be forgiven.

2. It is impossible for people today to commit such sins in the strict sense. This level of blasphemy can only be committed when the Person of Jesus Himself is walking on the earth performing great miracles. You cannot commit the very same sin today even if you want to.

If you have the slightest fear of having possibly ever committed this sin, you haven't committed it. People who really commit this sin have a very bad conscience that will not fear it at all.

3. However, there are similar sins today that are so extremely serious that can actually make one unsavable! This is what the book of Hebrews talks about!

**Hebrews 10:26** “For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins!”

Hebrews was written more than 30 years after Jesus ascended to heaven. Most of the readers have never seen Jesus, nor have they directly witnessed His miracles. They were just like us. If they could go on sinning willfully to an unsavable point, so it must also be possible today!

The Holy Spirit is still working manifestly today, and His most important work is the Bible. The Bible is the inerrant, clear, and powerful testimony to Jesus. The Holy Spirit also works in the church and in the life of every Christian. Today, the Holy Spirit is still testifying to the Lord Jesus through the complete Bible and the church of Christ. But some people can harden their hearts to such an extent that they see all the evidence of the Holy Spirit working today and still firmly resist the Holy Spirit's testimony of Jesus, saying that it is all made up by man. The Bible is made up by man, and the sanctification of life is merely the result of human effort that has nothing to do with Jesus.

Attention, so-called long-term seekers! The work of the Holy Spirit in this age is the Bible and the church. Apart from this, there is no more evidence for you to see. If you keep resisting these testimonies of the Spirit again and again, you may one day get to a point where, like the scribes here, you have blasphemed the Holy Spirit and there no longer remains a sacrifice for your sins!

When God continually and clearly demonstrates the work of the Holy Spirit before you, and you'd rather go against common sense and make up excuses to refuse to trust and obey Jesus, you've committed a similar sin. Your heart and the scribes' heart are the same heart. Put you in their situation, and you'd also say that Jesus was possessed by Beelzebub, and that he cast out demons by Satan. Because that was the only excuse they must hold on to in order to reject Jesus in that situation.

But if you respond to the warning here today by repenting and believing in the Lord, then the promise of verse 28 is yours: all your sins, and whatever blasphemy you've committed, will all be forgiven.

### *Application Summary*

Brothers and sisters, do you see what great work of transformation God has done in our hearts? How hard would our hearts be if it were not for the work of God? From the scribes, have you seen what your heart would have been like if God hadn't changed you from within? If you have seen God's work in you, that He has softened your proud hard heart, and given you the faith to be saved, if you have seen such grace, then what kind of life should you respond to God's grace with?