

**Matthew 12:22-32**  
***The Unpardonable Sin***  
June 9, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

**Intro** - A couple of years ago I was speaking at a camp and one of the counselors came up to me and said, "*Last night, after you shared the gospel, one of the girls in my cabin said she'd like to trust Christ as her Savior, but can't because she's committed the unpardonable sin.*"

**v. 31** - "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men...

**Psalm 86:5** - Lord, You are so good, ready to forgive, full of unfailing love for all who call on You.

**Micah 7:18-19** - Who is a God like You, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance? You don't stay angry forever but delight to show mercy... You'll cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

- Moses killed a man and God forgave him.
- David committed adultery and God forgave him.
- Peter denied Christ and God forgave him.
- *When Christ was on the Cross, what did He say about those who were about to kill Him? "Father, forgive them..."*
- Even killing the Son of God is forgivable

**v. 31** - "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit won't be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it won't be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."

## **1. The Action**

So far in the gospel of Matthew we've seen Jesus:

- heal a leper... calm a storm on the Sea of Galilee... raise a little girl from the dead... cast out demons... give sight to the blind... heal a man on the Sabbath

**John 10:38** - "Believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done... Then you will know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I am in the Father."

**John 10:25** - "The works I do in My Father's name testify about Me."

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**John 11:47-48** - [The Pharisees said], “What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

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## 2. The Accusation

### v.24

In Mark 12, Jesus told a parable about the Pharisees:

- **a Man had a vineyard that He leased out to workers (Owner of the vineyard is God)**
- **at vintage time he sent one of his servants (prophet) to receive some of the fruit**
- **they beat the servant and sent him away**
- **so He sent another servant...**
- **finally He sent His Son**

**Mark 12:7** - "The tenant farmers said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.'"

**Mark 12:12** - They knew He had spoken this parable *against them*.

**G. Campbell Morgan**: *What they said was either a lie and they knew it; or else it was the result of their degenerate moral nature, so that they were unable to distinguish between good and bad... Whichever alternative is chosen, this at least*

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*remains true, they were attempting to turn people from Christ, by attributing the wonders that He wrought to diabolic influence.*

**Jesus:** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven from people; for you neither go in yourselves nor do you allow those who would enter to go in." (Matthew 23:13)

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### 3. The Answer

**#1 - Their accusation was illogical.**

**v.25-26**

- on the one hand he was empowering demons to possess people's minds and bodies
- and on the other hand empowering Jesus to cast out those very same demons.

**Jesus:** "The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy." (John 10:10)

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|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Satan doesn't steal and then restore.  | <b>HE ONLY STEALS</b>   |
| • Satan doesn't destroy and then repair. | <b>HE ONLY DESTROYS</b> |

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**#2 - Their accusation was inconsistent.**

**v.27**

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**#3 - Their accusation was inaccurate.**

**v.28**

Jesus did this miracle to show them that the king was right there in their midst.

**v.29**

I saw this article in the news recently:

**A suspected burglar trying to break into a house in San Diego found himself in a chokehold when the homeowner's son, an MMA fighter, chased him down and pinned him to the ground.**

**Sergio Hernandez Jr. says he spotted a strange man breaking into his father's house and sprung into action. He chased the suspect down the block and eventually caught up to him. He brought him back to his dad's house, but when he put him down the man tried to escape. Hernandez did a judo throw to get the man on the ground. The man tried to get up, and that's when Hernandez put him in what he calls a "triangle choke," with his legs wrapped around the suspect's neck. Hernandez then called the police while keeping the suspect pinned to the ground until they showed up. Hernandez has been doing jiu jitsu for 13 years and has a black belt.**

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**v.29**

**1 John 3:8** - The Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

**Hebrews 2:14-15** - The Son also became flesh and blood, so that by His death He might break the power of him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--and free those who all their lives were held in slavery.

**v.30**

**v.31-32**      *Son of Man"*

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***Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit involves ascribing the work of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ to Satan.***

**Rick Phillips:** *There is no sin so great that the precious blood of the Son of God, of infinite value before God, isn't sufficient to pay for it. The issue is that forgiveness comes only to those who believe on the Lord Jesus. And someone who knows who Jesus is, who realizes that His work is by the Holy Spirit, and yet so refuses to believe that he actually ascribes the Spirit's work to the devil cannot possibly be saved. Why? Because that person isn't just ignorant, but they willfully, knowingly reject Jesus as Messiah, as proved by the Holy Spirit.*

**Tim Challies:** *This passage describes not someone who in a fit of anger or temptation commits blasphemy, but someone who refuses to believe on Jesus Christ as the Messiah even when he recognizes the Holy Spirit at work.*

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**Conclusion**

**#1 - If you're worried that you've committed the unpardonable sin--you probably haven't.**

**#2 - If you've never trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior--do it now.**

**Psalm 86:5** - Lord, You are so good, ready to forgive, full of unfailing love for all who call on You.

**#3 - Be a gatherer**

**Jesus**: He who doesn't gather with Me scatters abroad.

*How can you gather them?*

- **Share your testimony**
- **Invite them to church**
- **Share a Bible verse with them...**
- **Pray for them**
- **Show them the love of Christ in a tangible way**

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