



‘Now!’ Sermon Series

Sermon #13

Sunday, July 14th, 2024

‘The One Sin that Keeps you Out of Heaven!’

Mark 3:22-30

Last week in ‘NOW’ sermon series:

- Last week we looked at Mark 3:7-21, with a sermon entitled *‘Pressure Points of the Ministry!’*.
 - Last week we examined the pressure that Jesus faced in the ministry. We looked at how He handled it, which shows us how we can deal with pressure when serving in ministry as well.
- *How does Mark’s summary of Jesus’ ministry in these verses show us the specific pressure points that those serving in ministry will face?*
 - **Pressure Point #1: *The Bombardment of People.* (V. 7-10)**

- **Pressure Point #2: *The Battle with Demons.* (V. 11-12)**
- **Pressure Point #3: *Befriend those that can Help You.* (V. 13-19)**
- **Pressure Point #4: *The Blasphemy that you will receive.* (V. 20-21)**
- Based on last week’s message, how are you dealing with the pressures that come in your own personal ministry unto the Lord?

‘The One Sin that Keeps you Out of Heaven!’

Mark 3:22-30

Sermon in a Sentence:

The one sin that can keep a person out of Heaven is denying Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior. Those who are guilty of this have an Inaccurate Picture, they Ignore Jesus Parables (teaching), and they have the Impossibility of Pardon.

Intro:

- For centuries, human beings have questioned and wondered whether or not there is a certain sin, or sins, that will keep them out of Heaven.
 - *In fact, from time to time in my counseling ministry I will deal with people asking me this question.*

- The following are different responses I've heard to this question: ***What sin do you think keeps a person out of Heaven?***

- Murder.
- Lying.
- Stealing.
- Adultery.
- Divorce.
- Fornication.

- ***These, and others, are often viewed as really 'bad' sins in the eyes of many.***

- The passage that we are studying this morning has caused anxiety and stress for believers for generations.
 - ***Before we dive into the text, I want to go ahead and put some of you at ease and answer this question:***

- ***What is the one sin that keeps a person out of Heaven today?***

- Refusing to accept Jesus Christ as your Personal Lord and Savior.
- In other words, choosing to constantly reject Him as Lord, who He is.
 - JM said ***'Apostates, like the unbelieving religious leaders of Jesus' day, are those who have been fully exposed to the truth of the gospel and yet walk away from Christ in spite of overwhelming evidence that they have been given.'***

- ***To reject and deny Jesus Christ continually all throughout your life and never choosing to accept Him, is the only sin that sins one to Hell.***

- J. Vernon McGee explains it simply, yet effectively ***'The attitude and state of the unbeliever is unpardonable-not the act. When a man blasphemes with his mouth, that is not the thing that condemns him; it is the attitude of his heart, which is a permanent condition-unless he stops resisting. This is the sin against the Holy Spirit: to resist the convicting work of the Holy Spirit in the heart and life.'***

- We must remember that because of what Christ was done in His death, burial and resurrection, it is impossible to commit an unpardonable sin.

- ***Meaning, if you commit a sin today, come under God's conviction tomorrow, and you come to God in repentance, God will forgive you.***

- Christ Jesus died for all sin, once and for all.
- 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' 1st John 1:9

- ***The only sin that Christ did not die for, it was impossible to die for, was the attitude and daily act of refusing and denying Him as Lord and Savior.***

- Jesus can forgive you of any and all sins you've committed. But how can He forgive someone who doesn't even believe that He can forgive them in the first place because they don't believe in His existence?
 - Dr. Daniel Aiken said ***'It is a sin not committed by one who is concerned that he may have committed it.'***
- In the context of our scripture passage today, it's important for us to know that people can still commit the sin that keeps them out of Heaven: unbelief, denying Christ, but the context and audience that Jesus was speaking to here with the scribes was a little different.
 - ***Same concept, different context. Let me explain.***
 - ***The Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit was peculiar to them in that day because they were eyewitness to the miracles and personhood of Jesus.***
 - The blasphemy they committed is when they attributed the power of Jesus, to that of satan.
 - ***Such a verbal statement in that day, revealed a state of one's soul that was far beyond redemption, having Jesus in their face, and calling Him satan.***

- Today, you can blaspheme and be forgiven, but you cannot deny Christ in this life, and be forgiven in the next. You can only be forgiven in this life.
 - James Edwards said ***'Anyone who is worried about having committed the sin against the Holy Spirit has not yet committed it, for anxiety of having done so is evidence of the potential for repentance. There is no record in scripture of anyone asking forgiveness of God and being denied it.'***
- These scribes revealed they weren't going to ask for forgiveness, their minds had been made up, and their hearts were hardened.
 - ****Read Mark 3:22-30****

Question to Ask:

What are the three signs that someone may be guilty of committing the unpardonable sin?

Point 1: An Inaccurate Picture. (V. 22)

- 'And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons."'
 - ***Mark had just told us that Jesus family did not believe in Him, and thought He was crazy.***
 - Now, Mark transitions to explain that the scribes don't just believe in Him, but

they are going to willfully and dare I say, longingly blaspheme against Him.

- ***Jesus had done more effective ministry during this short period (the beginning of his 3-year ministry), than the scribes and Pharisees had done in their entire lives.***

- We've already read in Mark's Gospel where Jesus had preached, healed, casted out demons, and much more.
- Plus, He just added a team to help Him and ultimately expand His ministry.

- ***The Scribes are angry, so they've come up with a conclusion about Jesus and they are going to present it to Him in this text.***

- There are two things that I see in verse 22 that shows they have a totally Inaccurate Picture/View of Christ. ***(Anyone who openly denies Christ Jesus until their dying breath obviously has an Inaccurate Picture).***

- ***Their Calculation. (V. 22a)***

- 'And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying,'
- Notice here that the Scribes are ***coming down*** from Jerusalem.
 - Verse 20 tells us that Jesus 'went home', which at this time would have been Capernaum.

- ***Based on the conclusion that the scribes come up with, it's obvious that they've watched Jesus and even confronted Him a time or time.***

- ***Mark, and the other Gospel writers have even shown us that in the scriptures.***

- Dr. Chuck Swindol said '***These experts traveling from Jerusalem to Capernaum would have been like seminary professors from the city traveling to a rural Church 120 miles away to go confront an upstart Sunday school teacher who suddenly had a vast following.***'

- In Bible times, it was exactly 125 miles, having to go through winding mountain paths through Samaria, Jericho, and Bethany.

- ***So now, they Calculation was leading to the confrontation which reveals to us the conclusion about Jesus they came up with.***

- ***Their Conclusion. (V. 22b)***

- "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons."
- The conclusion that these scribes had determined about Jesus can be summarized in this sentence: ***Jesus was a demon-powered apostate who they should silence as soon as possible.***

- ***No one could deny the realness and reality of the miracles that had been***

performed by Jesus, but they were questioning the source of this power.

- They did not believe Jesus was God, and so they do not believe that this power comes from God. They believe the exact opposite.
 - *Based on what was said about this group in Mark 3:6, I assume this march from Jeruslaem was a short term plan to kill Jesus right then and there. This plan will fail, for now.*
- The scribes accuse Jesus of being possessed by Beelzebul and they accuse His source of power being the demons themselves.
 - **Word Study**
 - Beelzebul in the english comes from the greek term **Beelzeboul** *Βεελζεβοὺλ*.
 - According to scholar James Hansen *'(This) term appears only rarely in Jewish literature and the term 'Beelzeboul' nowhere outside of the Gospels'*
 - This term occurs 7 times within the Gospel.
- In the ancient world, the word 'Beelzebul' originally referred to Baal-Zebul, translated the 'Baal, the prince', which was the main religious deity in the Philistine city of Ekron.

■ *The israelites would mock this name and called it 'The Lord of the Flies' according to 2nd Kings 1:2.*

- Over time, just as our words do today, the meaning of the word changed. By the first century Beelzebul had become a name for satan.

■ *Essentially what the scribes are doing, is they are accusing Jesus of doing all He's done from a place of demon/satan possession, and denying the overwhelming evidence of His messiahship.*

- This reminds me of the following verse we studied during our series in Hebrews:
 - 'For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, **5** and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, **6** and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.' Hebrews 6:4-6

- ***The conclusion of these Pharisees here would ultimately condemn them to eternal separation in hell.***
 - There are people even today in our world and culture that call Jesus 'Satanic' and other ugly and awful things.
 - Unless they repent and ask for forgiveness, they will face the same condemnation that these scribes did.
- ***We've seen this morning that those who are guilty of the unpardonable sin, have an inaccurate picture.***

Point 2: *The Ignoring of Parables.* (V. 23-27)

- In verses 23-27, Jesus responds to the accusations of the scribes that He is working for and with satan.
 - ***Jesus is going to refute their accusations and use good sound logic to do so.***
 - ***But even with Him doing this, the scribes are going to ignore the parables of Jesus, meaning they are ultimately going to ignore His teaching.***
- Someone in our world today who denies Christ, will not heed nor hear (truly hear) the message and truth of the teachings of Christ as are found in His Word.
 - ***The parables that Jesus shares here with the scribes, are to expose the ridiculous nature of their occupations.***

- These scribes were so blinded by their own personal knowledge and egos, that they can't see Jesus literally, physically in front of them.
- ***Jesus is going to use to different analogies, to express the same truth: Why would satan seek to destroy and act against himself?***
- Jesus chooses to refute them using two analogies, with the same point in mind.
- ***Analogy #1. (V. 23-24)***
 - 'And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? **24** If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.'
 - What Jesus is seeking to get across with this first analogy, is that their allegations are absurd.
 - ***He does this by showing them if satan were to cast out his own agents or destroy his own evil works, then the kingdom would be divided.***
 - ***Jesus is showing us a little bit of spiritual insight with this first analogy.***
 - ***One reason it's so important for you and I to fight against satan in spiritual warfare, is because believe it or not, satan is trying to build a kingdom.***
 - One commentator said satan extends his kingdom by sowing chaos and enslaving humans, not by setting them free.

- ***Oh what a blessing that we can be redeemed by our our redeemer who plundered satan's world.***
 - Let me remind you today, that satan will be defeated once and for all.
- Do not ignore the truth's of Jesus! If you constantly and consistently ignore the teachings of Jesus as truth, you are actively denying Him.
 - 'and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.'
Revelation 20:10
- ***The Devil is going down, and he's seeking to take anyone he can with him. Are you going down with the devil? Or Up with Jesus?***

Point 3: *The Impossibility of Pardon. (V. 28-30)*

- The scribes, who seemingly always had something to say, must have been speechless, because Mark does not record that they said anything at all. Which for them, is shocking.
 - ***So, the paragraph break between verse 27 & 28 is significant because it shows that the scribes were mute.***
 - ***In verses 28-30, Jesus is going to conclude this matter with another warning, which for them was truth due to their unbelief.***

- For us, as I opened up this morning, we must realize that the only sin that keeps you out of Heaven, is denying Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is going to explain the Impossibility of being Pardoned for your sins in these three verses. There are **2** things we need to point out concerning this:
- ***The Substitutionary Atonement is Valid for Sins. (V. 28)***
 - "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter,"
 - All sinners, no matter what their sins are, can receive forgiveness if they will come to Jesus and repent.
 - ***The important part of this verse is that Jesus Himself emphasizes that all sins will and can be forgiven.***
 - ***Why?***
 - ***This is an anticipation and foreshadowing of the substitutionary atonement that is to come.***
 - Obviously, Jesus had not yet died on the cross. But, it was going to happen and it would be eternal security for all sinners who accept Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

○ ***So if you are wondering whether or not the sins you've committed will keep you out of Heaven or not, you need to realize the validity of the Substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ.***

■ ***As long as you're still breathing in this sanctuary this morning, you still have the ability to accept this atonement.***

- The impossibility to be pardoned occurs if you deny Jesus throughout your entire life...

○ Which leads us to the second part of this sentence that Jesus said to these scribes...

● ***The Sickening Action of Denying the Lord. (V. 29-30)***

○ 'but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin'— 30 for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

○ If you are here this morning you are actively denying Jesus Christ, it's time for you to repent, and to accept Him as your Lord and Savior.

■ ***If you are here today and you don't know Jesus, my friend, you're taking a gamble on eternity and that is not something that you want to do.***

○ Dr. Daniel Aiken said ***'If someone speaks against the Holy Spirit verbally and continually, with willful and malicious intent that reveals a hardened heart beyond the***

possibility of repentance, there is no forgiveness, and they are guilty of an eternal sin'.

■ To speak against the Holy Spirit is to be speak against God Himself.

○ ***If you are denying the Lord and His presence in your life, now is the time, the chance, and opportunity to repent and accept Him today.***

Conclusion:

● If you came into the Lord's house this morning with any worries, anxieties or discomforts, it is my prayer that you will be able to live with security, solitude and satisfaction in our great God and in Him alone.

○ ***Let me remind you again, through the scriptures, that what you do doesn't get you into Heaven.***

○ 'Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6

■ You've got to go through Jesus. You've got to accept His blood that was spilled for you over your heart.

○ 'For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.' Ephesians 2:8-9

■ ***Stop wondering if you're going to be in Heaven or not when you die. You can know today.***

- If you are worried that something in your past, present or maybe future is going to keep you out of Heaven, then you obviously haven't committed the unpardonable sin.
 - *The only thing that can keep you out of Heaven when you die: is if you deny and reject Christ, and never choose to accept Him as your personal Lord and Savior.*
- You might be here today and you are a rebellious and running sinner.
 - You blasphemed God and you've denied Him.
 - *You have the opportunity today to change your eternal destination, and accept Him as Lord and Savior.*
- This morning we looked at the three signs that will be evident in someone's life if they are guilty of Denying Christ Jesus:
 - **Point 1:** *An Inaccurate Picture. (V. 22)*
 - **Point 2:** *The Ignoring of Parables. (V. 23-27)*
 - **Point 3:** *The Impossibility of Pardon. (V. 28-30)*