



## World Christian Fellowship

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### Unpardonable sin Matthew 12:22-32

**Matthew 12:22-32**, *Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. <sup>23</sup>And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" <sup>24</sup>Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."*

<sup>25</sup>*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. <sup>26</sup>If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? <sup>27</sup>And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. <sup>28</sup>But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>29</sup>Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. <sup>30</sup>He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.*

<sup>31</sup>*"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be*

*forgiven men. <sup>32</sup> Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.*

God, by virtue of His very nature, is a God of forgiveness. It is not His nature to be unforgiving. It is rather His nature to be utterly forgiving.

**Psalm 86:5**, *For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.*

**Psalm 103:3**, *Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,*

**Daniel 9:4**, *And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,*

**Exodus 34:6-7**, *And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,<sup>7</sup> keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."*

**Micah 7:18-19**, *Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy. <sup>19</sup>He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all [k]our sins Into the depths of the sea.*

### **God forgives!**

The Old Testament is loaded with indications that God forgives.

- Adam and Eve sinned, and God forgave.
- The patriarchs sinned and God forgave.
- Under the leadership of the judge's people sinned, and God forgave.
- Under the kings they sinned, and God forgave.

Throughout the flow of the history of the covenant people, God forgave and forgave!

The New Testament and it's the same.

**1 John 2:12**, *I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.*

**Ephesians 1:7**, *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*

**Isaiah 1:18**, *“Come now, and let us reason together,”*  
*Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be*  
*as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall*  
*be as wool.*

God is in the business of forgiving.

### **What is the Essence of the Bible?**

Man is a sinner,  
God forgives.

Here in this passage an unforgivable sin, to be something that must demands our clear understanding. Because on the surface it may appear that God is going against the very grain of His nature unless we understand truly what God is saying.

It doesn't matter how severe the sin; God can still forgive.

Few people who think they have sinned some kind of sin that is so bad that there will never be forgiveness, but that's not the case.

The worst sin that any human being could ever, would ever, or has ever committed is to kill the Son of God.

You can't imagine anything worse than that. That not only embodies murder, but the most hateful, venomous, vicious

rejection of God. Yet it is precisely that sin which Jesus demonstrates is forgivable.

Jesus hanging on the cross, He looks down at those who have taken His life and then He looks to the Father.

**Luke 23:34**, *Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."*

Even killing the Son of God is forgivable.

Scripture shows us that,

- God forgives idolaters.
- God forgives murderers.
- God forgives liars.
- God forgives cheaters.
- God forgive deceivers.
- God forgives gluttons.
- God forgives covenant-breakers.
- God forgives fornicators, adulterers, homosexuals.
- God forgives the covetous.
- God forgives the drunkards.
- God forgives the extortioners.
- God forgives the criminals of all types.
- God even forgives the people who think they have no sin.
- God forgives self-righteous.

### **The sin of rejecting Christ is unpardonable?**

If the sin of rejecting Christ was unforgivable, then none of us could be forgiven, because every one of us, before our redemption, were Christ-rejectors. That is forgivable.

**John 16:8-9**, *And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: <sup>9</sup>of sin, because they do not believe in Me;*

Paul is living testimony that God can forgive even a blasphemer. **1 Timothy 1:13-14**, *although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. <sup>14</sup>And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*

Jesus said if anyone comes to me I will no way cast him out.

**John 6:37**, *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*

God is a forgiving God. There is no limit to His forgiveness.

### **What is the catch?**

There is no forgiveness at any time without the meeting of a condition.

Condition is repentance, confession, and a turning to God.

**Do you want to know why the Pharisee couldn't be forgiven?**

The Pharisees couldn't be forgiven because they perceived themselves as beyond the need for repentance.

**Matthew 12:22**, *Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.*

Jesus was preaching, teaching, healing, and casting out demons in Galilee.

He had flourished His ministry by multiplying Himself, by twelve, sending out His twelve chosen disciples.

Jesus had given them power over disease and demons, so that they could multiply the healing ministry and the ministry of deliverance.

Jesus had given them the message to preach that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. They are engaged in the proclamation of this message.

Now the King is presenting Himself to the people and giving them a taste of His kingdom. It is a demonstration that He is the Messiah, and it shows them glimpses or previews of what will occur when the kingdom finally and fully comes.

One side there was an escalation of the ministry, and the other side, there was a mounting rejection.

**John 1:11**, *“He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.”*

The rejection was becoming more and more.

Matthew selects this one, in verses 22 and following, as the symbol of the climax of rejection of Christ.

Matthew takes first 10 chapters to present Jesus as King. Matthew chapters 11 and 12 Matthew is showing us the rejection of Jesus Christ is kept increasing.

For centuries, for generations, through all of the unbelievable struggles of the people of God, they had lived in hope of the Messiah.

It was the desire of every Jewish girl that she should mother the Messiah.

It was the heart-cry of every prophet and every teacher in Israel that he should live to see the day the Messiah came.

They wanted that deliverance.

That was their hope and their dream.

But when He came, they rejected Him, and they wanted Him dead.

Sad thing is that they reject their Messiah.

**V 22**, *Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.*

Jesus has done this hundreds of times in His ministry. There is nothing particularly novel about that healing. It is a consummate expression of His healing power, because it involves dealing with demons, which He did.

It also involves a physical illness factor.

So, you really have the gift of power, or the casting out of demons, as well as the gift of healing deliverance from physical infirmity.

Now it is impossible at this point for the people to deny the power of Jesus. they can't deny that.

It is absolutely impossible!

They don't even try to deny that.

They don't try to argue the genuineness of miracle. He has demonstrated miraculous ability over and over again.

They know that such power can only be described as supernatural power. There is no other way to describe it.

Instantaneous, split-second, total healings, total deliverances with obvious verifiable and permanent results.

Jesus had power beyond anything they could perceive in the human dimension. While they could see that, they yet were reluctant to accept Him as their Messiah because He did not fit their preconceived perspective as to what the Messiah would be.

### **Can He be the Messiah?**

This can't be the Messiah, because He is not having any army or soldiers to bring victory over Romans.

But Jesus was meek and humble.

Look at the previous chapter.

**Matthew 11:28-30**, *Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*"

**Matthew 12:17-21**, *that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: <sup>18</sup>"Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. <sup>20</sup>A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory; <sup>21</sup>And in His name Gentiles will trust."*

Even though Matthew points out that it is what Isaiah said would be true of Him. You have to realize Jesus not only will come ultimately to conquer, but He will come in meekness, gentleness, and compassion.

The Jews failed to see this part of the Messiah. This passage was important for them to note as they read his gospel later, that Jesus was not contrary to Old Testament pictures of the Messiah.

This healing triggers the whole issue.

The Pharisees are there, Luke tells us that the scribes from Jerusalem have joined them, the scribes, many of them of course, would be Pharisees.

Demons possess people.

They live in people.

The Bible is clear on that.

Demons can affect people in many ways. They can affect people in a way that you might not even know.

There are demons, who may cause people to thrash around in a fire and froth at the mouth.

There are demons who may create in people physical illnesses or blindness or deafness or dumbness, but demons activate themselves through human beings.

Jesus approaches this individual, delivers him from the demon. Instantly not only does he have spiritual deliverance from demonic control, but he has total wholeness.

- He was blind instantly he sees.
- He was dumb immediately he talks.
- He was deaf immediately he hears everything.

Now we see there are so many fake miracles on your TV.

**V23**, And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

Everybody was amazed. They just couldn’t handle it because it was an overwhelming thing.

The imperfect tense indicates a kind of a continual state of being out of your mind with astonishment.

### **Son of David!**

This is a title for the Messiah that’s based on 2 Samuel.

**2 Samuel 7:13**, *He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*

Son of David became a name for the Messiah.

When Jesus came into the city on Triumphant entry which we celebrate it as Palm Sunday, into the city of Jerusalem, they cried out, "Son of David," which was a Messianic title.

**Matthew 21:9**, *Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"*

Earlier they saw the miracle by Jesus and they were astonished.

**Matthew 8:27**, *So the men marvelled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"*

Now they have progressed.

Then they were saying, "This isn't the Messiah?"

Obvious next step should be?

"This is the Messiah?"

When the Pharisees hear the question, they go into instant panic.

The Pharisees cannot tolerate that.

The scribes can't tolerate that.

The Herodians can't tolerate that.

If they accept Him as the Messiah, then their game is over. Because Jesus has already blasted them in Matthew 5 through

7 and said that their righteousness does not equal that necessary for the kingdom and that their treatment of every dimension of life, religious and secular, is in violation of God's original intention.

They can't accept and survive the exaltation of Jesus Christ.

**V 24**, *Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."*

They call Him as this fellow.

Jesus probably went inside a house, and He was in there with the people around Him.

They were saying, "This can't be the Messiah, can it?"

The Pharisees had put pressure on the outside of the house, and they were then separated from Jesus some distance, so they begin to poison the crowd.

They are saying this to the people, not to Jesus.

**V 25**, *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."*

Jesus didn't hear what they said in His own ear, but He doesn't need to hear, because He can read minds.

The Pharisees were poisoning the people by saying, “He does this by the power of Beelzebub.”

What Jesus did obviously by supernatural power. There was no way they could avoid that. They knew that.

Jesus did a great miracle which no one can dispute, not just who had faith in Him, the one who hated Him also. Because all these miracles are so authentic. Jesus did everything with the Supernatural power of God.

So, when you witness such a miracle then one must conclude that He is supernatural.

Then it becomes an issue of whether this is from God or Satan?

**Why?**

These are the only two supernatural kingdoms that exist.

Obviously, the religious leaders weren't going to accept it from God and He is messiah.

**So, what could they possibly say?**

They can only say it is from Satan.

**Can you identify the issue here?**

If they agree then they will must defend the Messiah of Jesus Christ.

They had never seen anything like it. But He did it by Beelzebub.

Beelzebub is originally was the name of a Philistine god, Beel or Baal.

Baal is just the ancient pagan word for lord.

Zebub or Zebul is best connected really in translation to the word flies.

The Ekronites worshiped the god of the flies.

The prince of demons or Beelzebub was simply using one of the titles of Satan.

**V26**, *If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?*

Jesus recognized this, when He answers, He uses the word Satan in response to their word Beelzebub.

They already accused Him as demon.

**John 8:48**, *Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"*

There are the only two supernatural kingdoms that exist and they opt out for Satan.

How Jesus destroys their stupid accusation?

**V 25**, *“And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them.”*

They didn’t say anything to Him.

They said it to the crowd.

They wouldn’t confront Him, but He confronts them.

He didn’t hear what they said, but He read their thoughts, and Matthew just slides that in in case you have any question about His power. He reads minds. He read their thoughts.

In **Mark 3**, it says they were outside the house, so He called to them.

He yelled at them.

Because they alone would know that He could read their thoughts. This itself shows the power Jesus had.

Jesus answers their accusation by telling them that there are three things wrong.

### **1. Illogical**

**V 25**, *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.”*

You don’t have to be a doctorate to figure it out.

- A kingdom divided against itself is going to fall.
- A house divided against itself is going to fall.
- A city divided against itself is going to fall.

You can't have civil war and survive.

You can unify one against another and survive, but you can't destroy the one.

A kingdom divided against itself can't stand.

Anybody can understand that when there is a division it will fail.

**V26**, *If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?*

In other words, you think Satan is so stupid that he's going to commit suicide.

Since even His critics knew that, they had only one of two choices. Either He did them by the power of Satan or by the power of God.

They chose the power of Satan. Jesus says, "That's absurd."

**What alternative is left?**

By their own stupidity, they are forced into the obvious truth that what He does he does by the power of God.

Satan is not going to go around trying to destroy his own work, but Jesus spent all of His ministry casting out Satan. Now if He was doing that by the power of Satan, then Satan is destroying his own kingdom and that is not his goal.

Sometime Satan may use some evil workers to show that they are genuine people of God by acting it out. We have seen the same people come to every meeting and getting casted out by same demon and making a show for the preacher so that the preacher can deceive the people and collect money and send the people to hell.

## **2. Partiality/ Prejudice**

*V 27, And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.*

Jesus asking the religious leaders that **'Don't your sons do the same thing?'**

Who are their sons?

It is a reference to the sons of the Pharisees, a way of saying the disciples of the Pharisees.

*2 Kings 2:3, Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that the Lord will take away your master from over you today?"*

There were people who sat at the feet of the Pharisees to learn their system, legalism, and their approach to life. They were known as the sons or the disciples of the Pharisees.

Among those were groups of the sons of the Pharisees were involved in exorcisms. Historian Josephus gives us some insight about them. They were going around with strange incantations and strange activities, trying to cast out demons.

Acts chapter 19, that there were some groups of Jewish exorcists, no doubt disciples of the Pharisees. Here they were miserably unsuccessful. They were trying to attach Jesus to their activity and use His name because it seemed to have so much magical power. The demons even said to them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who in the world are you?"

Even the demons didn't bother with them.

They certainly wouldn't be disciples of the Sadducees because they didn't even believe in demons.

Why would they that Jesus did it by the power of Satan unless they were utterly prejudiced against Him?

- When the Pharisees do it, and it is not even legitimate, they ascribe it to God.
- When Jesus do it and the evidence is irrefutable, they ascribe it to Satan.

It is the same activity on the surface, it just shows how prejudiced you are.

People do not reject Jesus Christ because there is lack of evidence that He is God.

They reject Him because they are biased against Him.

They don't want the intimidation that Christ brings into their sinful life. Instead of being open to receive Him, they push Him away and they in therefore doing that have to conclude prejudicial things about Him.

Jesus even takes them a step further and says, *"Why don't you let your sons be the judge?"*

Let the ones that are doing it be your judge.

Bring them in and ask them a simple question.

Do you do this by the power of God or Satan?

What do you think they are going to say?

If they say they do it by the power of Satan, they will betray the whole system.

They will condemn themselves.

But on the other hand, if they say they do it by the power of God, then they are going to affirm that Jesus is doing the same thing.

Let them judge.

### **3. Rebellious**

Not only their accusation is illogical and biased, but it shows your rebellion against the kingdom.

*V 28, But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.*

What a statement.

Jesus does cast out demons by the power of the Spirit of God.

Anything else would be absurd.

We know it is God's power.

Jesus, in His incarnation as a servant, restricted the use of His own prerogatives, was obedient to the Father, and energized by the Spirit. So, the Spirit was doing this through Him.

That's the key to understanding the unpardonable sin!

By saying that I have delivered by the Spirit of God Jesus had eliminated the other idea.

Jesus says that, "I do it by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom is here."

#### **What does it mean?**

The kingdom is where the King happens to be.

Jesus is saying to them that, “I am the King and the kingdom is near you.”

The kingdom is near, and they are so far.

There is a kingdom future, in the millennial kingdom. There is a kingdom future beyond that in the eternal kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth.

We also believe that the kingdom is wherever the King is there. Do you believe that if the King lives in your life, then the kingdom is within you?

That is the only alternative, and Jesus saying to them that if I am the King, then the kingdom has come to you.

There’s no other alternative!

He had demonstrated the powers of the kingdom.

- He healed the sick.
- He cleansed the lepers.
- He freed the demonized
- He raised the dead.
- He pardoned the sinners.
- He preached the truth,
- He unmasked the hypocrites.

He has done everything to demonstrate who He is, and there is no other explanation than that He is supernatural, and there's no other way than to say that His supernatural power comes from God.

*V29, Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.*

This is the kingdom of God. By delivering this person from the demons HE had demonstrated His Divine Power over the kingdom of Satan.

Or else, how can one enter into a strong man's house and spoil his property?

Except he first binds the strong man and then he will plunder his house.

For example, there is a very strong man owns a house and you want to rob his house. You don't go into his house and say, I like you to help me. I'm going to rob you.

You have to tie him up in order to tie up a strong man who knows you are going to rob his house you have to be stronger than he is.

The person is a very strong man who can bind such a strong man.

If you are going to go rob a house, the house is owned by a strong man, you want to steal his goods, you are going to have to tie him up.

### **What Jesus saying?**

- Haven't I demonstrated to you, by the ability that I have to tie up Satan, that I am greater than he?
- Haven't I shown you that My ability to steal his property?
- Haven't I released the person from Satan captivity?
- Haven't I healed them from their diseases?
- Haven't I shown you that I can spoil his house?

If I can spoil his house and I can bind him up, then I am greater than he.

Israelites knew well that Lucifer was the anointed cherub and the only one higher than he was God Himself. There is only one person who can bind the Devil.

I hear people going around saying, "I am going to bind Satan." Forget it!

You couldn't get in that house.

You are not strong enough to bind that man.

There is only one who can bind him, and that's is our Lord Jesus Christ!

**Revelation 20:1-2**, *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;*

At the beginning of the millennial kingdom, the Lord binds him for a thousand years. This is a little taste of the kingdom.

Because Jesus can plunder his house. He can steal men who are captive to His system. He can deliver the demons out of them. He can control that whole operation.

Christ entered into Satan's house, tied him up, and stole his property. He is still doing that!

Once, we were all Satan's property!

We were children of wrath.

Jesus delivered us all.

Jesus proved that He is the King by His ability to control Satan's dominion.

So, if He is the King, then the Kingdom is here!



