

Sermon Title: I Never Thought I would Hear That!

What is something that you never thought you would hear or say? _____

- The reason I bring this up, is that our hard saying for this morning is something I never thought I would read in the Bible.

Matthew 12:22-32 “²² Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. ²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, “Can this be the Son of David?” ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.” ²⁵ Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. ²⁶ And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. ³⁰ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ³¹ Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”

1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

- I am well aware that reading this verse can cause some fear and anxiety in people, so if you have stopped listening because you're worried that you may have committed this unforgivable sin, please take a deep breath and know that you probably haven't done this.
- Jesus is saying that He is the light, God the Father is the light as well, so we need to put our trust in God.
- The situation in this passage clears up the interpretation a little bit. Jesus is speaking directly to the Pharisees because of their actions.

- The only truly unforgiveable sin is unbelief. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, our only means of forgiveness, so if we reject forgiveness, that is the only unforgivable sin.
- What is blasphemy?
 - Catechism says ““In summary, we should use the holy name of God only with reverence and awe, so that we may properly confess God, pray to God, and glorify God in all our words and works.”
 - In the Old Testament, blasphemy was one of the most serious sins a person could commit. Leviticus 24
 - If we want to follow the third commandment, and we want to not blaspheme against God we must not only use his name properly, but also be good witnesses to His reputation.

So, the moral of today's lesson is, if you truly believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that he died for your sins, and that God rose him from the dead to give us victory over sin and the grave, then you don't have to worry about this unforgiveable sin.

Belief in God, and specifically the power of God that is displayed by the Holy Spirit, is the most important thing in this passage.

What can we do today about this hard saying of Jesus?

Challenges:

- 1) Start, re-start, or continue learning who God really is in His Word.
 - a. We have many things available to help you dive into the Bible!
 - b. If you want to get into the word, there is no better time than now to start or restart.
- 2) Be aware of God's power around you at all times of your life.
 - a. The best way to guard yourself from blaspheming against God, is to see Him all around you, and acknowledge His power.
- 3) If you want God to forgive you of your sins, you must forgive others that sin against you.
 - a. Matthew 6:14-15
 - b. It is good to remember how much God has forgiven you for; to respond to other people with grace and forgiveness when they sin against us.

Scripture passages to go up on the Screen:

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