

May 6, 2018 – Elmont Baptist Church
Message Series: The Gospel of Mark
Week 16: “...Guilty of an Eternal Sin...”
Text: Mark 3:22-30

We have launched into unpacking and understanding the Book of Mark. Mark’s audience is Romans believers, and as theologian Danny Akin says, “he is telling them that Jesus is the Messiah King and suffering servant who actively ministers on our behalf and gives his life as a ransom for many.”

Last week we took a high level look at where we’ve been and how Mark, the writer, is putting this all together in a very strategic way.

Today, we’re going to come back and land in another part of the passage we flew over two weeks ago. What sin is unforgiveable or eternal?

We Must See that Forgiveness is...

✓ **Essential & Promised**

- **Essential – to know & love God**
- **Promised – repent & believe in the Gospel**

Forgiveness is essential to salvation or eternal life. Jesus defined eternal life in John 17:3 – “And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” Knowing the Father can only happen through believing in the person and work of the Son – John 14:6.

A great truth from this passage is that ALL sin will be forgiven for those who come to Jesus.

✓ **Eternally Impossible**

- **For those who know & examine,**
- **But willfully reject the Truth**

Many people, over time, have worried over committing this sin, as though it might be done accidentally or unknowingly. That’s not possible. The scribes Jesus addresses are experts in the Scriptures. They are not making a passing comment or personal opinion. They have all the knowledge and truth and are declaring a verdict about the work of the Spirit through Jesus. Hebrews 6:4-6 give us a better picture of the type of people that would be guilty of this sin. Quotes from commentators.

So Respond by...

- ✓ **Resting & Rejoicing in God’s Forgiveness**
- ✓ **Asking for Desperation & Discernment**
 - Desperation for the Spirit’s work
 - Discernment to know the Spirit’s work – to be sensitive to conviction of sin and quickly confess. To see where He is as work, and how He might empower you to be involved.

Bottom line:

God didn’t just make a way for us to get back to Him, He sent His Son to give us the gift of eternal life with Him. If you have trusted Jesus, then spend some time rejoicing in the reality that you are forgiven. Every detail of your sin was paid for on the cross. But, also rejoice in the reality that God has not only given you His Son to forgive you, but also given you His Spirit to empower you for obedience. Ask Him to lead you by His Spirit and bear fruit through your life that brings glory to Him.

Thinking it Through...

- ✓ **Do you believe that anyone who does not come through Jesus will not spend eternity with God?**
- ✓ **Even if you have been forgiven, is there a sin you’re struggling with and need to confess?**
- ✓ **What is happening in your heart that is only possible by the Holy Spirit’s power?**

Storying Mark 3:7-21, 31-35

We're continuing the process of digging into the passage that we took a high-level look at two weeks ago. My hope is that we can help each person in our group understand that Jesus is really the ONLY way to have eternal life, that they cannot accidentally or unknowingly commit the "unforgiveable sin", and they should seek the Holy Spirit's activity in their lives.

• Questions

- **Observation:** (emphasize that these are rather obvious answers)
 - Where were the scribes traveling from?
 - What do they say about Jesus?
 - What does Jesus say in response?
- **Interpretation:**
 - What logical arguments does Jesus use to refute the scribes accusation?
 - What does this say about the unity or disunity in so many "churches"?
 - Read through a couple of the quotes from commentators that you like and see if there are any thoughts/questions.
- **Application:** Use the "Thinking it Through" questions as needed
 - Have you ever examined, experienced, or tasted something, and then decided you didn't like it or want it and there's no way anyone can change your mind?
 - Christians cannot commit an unforgiveable sin against the Holy Spirit, but what are two sins the Scriptures warn us not to commit against Him (Eph. 4:30 & 1 Thess 4:19)?
 - What are ways we can grow in our love for, desire for, and awareness of the Spirit's work?

Quotes About the Eternal Sin:

Sam Storms: This was not a one-time, momentary slip or inadvertent mistake in judgment, but a persistent, life-long rebellion in the face of inescapable truth. Blasphemy of the HS is not a careless act but a calloused attitude...Blasphemy of the HS, therefore, is not just unbelief but unashamed unbelief that arises not from ignorance of what is true but in defiance of what one knows beyond doubt to be true. It is not mere denial,

but determined denial; not mere rejection, but wanton, willful, wicked, wide-eyed rejection.

Daniel Akin: The unpardonable sin is to knowingly, willingly, and persistently attribute to Satan the works of God done by and in Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit, who testifies to these truths in your heart. (1) It is a sin of full knowledge. (2) It is an ongoing disposition of the heart that resists the conviction of the Holy Spirit. (3) It is a verbal act that attributes the works of the Holy Spirit to Satan. (4) It is a willful rejection of God's grace in Jesus. (5) It is rooted in unbelief. (6) It is a sin a Christian cannot commit. (7) It is a sin not committed by one who is concerned he may have committed it.

D.A. Carson: The NT reveals how close one may come to the kingdom - tasting, touching, perceiving, understanding. And it also shows that to come this far and reject the truth is unforgivable. So it is here. Jesus charges that those who perceive that his ministry is empowered by the Spirit and then, for whatever reason - whether spite, jealousy, or arrogance - ascribe it to Satan, have put themselves beyond the pale (of forgiveness). For them there is no forgiveness, and that is the verdict of the one who has authority to forgive sins.

David Mathis (DesiringGod.org): For Christians today, we need not fear a specific moment of sin, but a kind of hardness of heart that would see Jesus as true and yet walk away — with a kind of hardness of heart incapable of repenting.

Stedman: And it is true, therefore, that if in the ultimate there is a rejection of Christ, then there is no hope, because there is no ground of forgiveness other than faith in the Lord Jesus. Men are forgiven when they believe in his name -- and on no other basis. If that is set aside; ultimately and finally -- this is not a single act of rejection which is in view, it is a process -- if the heart is resistant and rejects the claims of Jesus as set forth by the Holy Spirit, the result is that there can be no forgiveness. This is Scripture's sharp way of underscoring the fact which Jesus himself declared "No man comes unto the Father but by me," {cf, John 14:6}.

Utley: In light of the above, this sin is committed by those who, in the presence of great light and understanding, still reject Jesus as God's means of revelation and salvation. They turn the light of the gospel into the darkness of Satan (cf. Mark 3:30). They reject the Spirit's drawing and conviction (cf. John 6:44,65). The unpardonable sin is not a rejection by God because of some single act or word, but the continual, ongoing rejection of God in Christ by willful unbelief (i.e., the scribes and Pharisees).