

The Unpardonable Sin Mark 3:20-35

by R.A. Torrey

The unpardonable sin is blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, which discloses settled antagonism to the truth and to good, and is certain that the one who commits it will never repent.

Scripture: Mark 3:20

Topics: "Unpardonable Sin", "Misunderstanding Jesus"

Description

R.A. Torrey explores the concept of the unpardonable sin as presented in Mark 3:20-35, emphasizing how Jesus was misunderstood by both His friends and enemies. He highlights the eagerness of the crowds to hear Jesus, the accusations from the scribes claiming He was in league with the devil, and the painful misunderstanding from His own family. Torrey explains that the unpardonable sin, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, stems from a hardened heart that refuses to repent, making it impossible for such individuals to seek forgiveness. Ultimately, he reassures that all who come to Christ will be received, contrasting this with the grave warning about the unpardonable sin. The sermon concludes with the affirmation that true kinship with Christ is found in obedience to God's will.

Transcript

(Compare Matthew 12:22-50; Luke 11:14-36)

DISCOVERY OF THE FACTS

1. Considered Insane by Friends, vv. 20, 21 How was the eagerness of the multitude to hear our Lord illustrated? Was it simply to hear Him that the multitude came? (vv. 9, 10; Luke 6:17.) Was He willing to have His rest and refreshment broken in upon in this way? (Mark 6:31-35.) Why? In which did He find the most satisfying refreshment, food for His own body or ministering to the needs of others? (John 4:31, 34-36.) If He had been like many of us, what would He have done if the needy multitudes gathered about Him when He needed food and rest?

Why was it He sent the multitudes away in one instance? (Mark 6:45, compare John 6:15.) When His friends heard how He was taking time from rest and refreshment to minister to the needy multitudes, what did they at once conclude? If a man nowadays spends his strength and takes the time that other men would spend in eating and rest in ministering to the needs of perishing souls, what do many people conclude about him? What did our Lord's friends try to do? Were they moved by kindly or hostile motives?

Were they right? What lay at the root of their grievous mistake? Was any other man of God beside our Lord ever reckoned insane? (2 Kings 9:11; Jer. 29:26; Acts 26:24.) 2. Considered in League with the Devil by His Foes, vv. 22-30 What was the interpretation put upon His actions and deeds by the scribes? Why did they seek to explain His miracles in that way? What would have been a more simple and natural explanation? (John 3:2.) Why did they not accept that explanation? (John 3:19, 20; 11:47, 48; Mark 12:7.)

For what purpose had these scribes come down from Jerusalem? (vv. 2, 6; 7:1, 2; Luke 5:17, 21; Matt. 21:15, 16.) What was the immediate occasion of their accusing Him of being in league with Beelzebub? (Matt. 12:22-24.) Was this the only instance in which this accusation was brought against Him? (Matt. 9:34; John 7:20; 8:48, 52; 10:20.) If such charges were brought against Him, what may His disciples expect? (Matt. 10:25.) Did these awful accusations grieve Him? (Ps. 69:20.)

For whose sake did He "endure such contradiction of sinners against Himself"? (Is. 53:3, 4.) Did He meet these outrageous charges with anger and invective? What did He do? Had the scribes made these charges directly to Himself? (Matt. 12:25; Luke 11:17.) Of what was "knowing their thought" a proof? (1 Kings 8:39.) What was His argument to prove that it was not by Satan's power that He cast out Satan's emissaries? Was that a conclusive argument? If it was not by Satan's power that He cast out demons, by what power must it have been? (Matt. 12:28; Luke 11:20.)

Who was He who could thus put forth "the finger of God" and bring Satan's power to naught? To what does He compare Satan in verse 27? To what does He compare the man under Satan's influence? (Luke 11:21, 22.) What must be done before the poor victim of Satan can be delivered? Who is the "stronger than he" (Satan) who comes upon him and overcomes him and taketh from him all his armor and divideth his spoils? (Luke 11:22.) If a man then is under the mighty power of Satan, to whom must he look for deliverance?

Why is he sure of it if he looks to Him? Who must this One who is mightier than Satan be? What turn does the thought take next? How many sins are pardonable? (1 Peter 2:24.) What is the condition upon which they will be pardoned? (Acts 10:43; 13:39.) What is the unpardonable sin? (Matt. 12:31, 32.) Why unpardonable? (Heb. 6:6.) Will one who has committed the unpardonable sin wish to come to Christ? Will every one who comes to Christ be received? (John 6:37.) If then one does come to Christ what does it conclusively show?

Will the Spirit move upon the heart of one who has committed this sin? If then the Spirit is moving a man's heart what does it show? What change does the Revised Version make in the closing words of verse 29? What is implied by that change? How does this doctrine of an unpardonable sin (see especially Matt. 12:32) bear upon the doctrine that all men will ultimately be forgiven and saved? Why did our Lord utter this warning? Had they in so saying committed the unpardonable sin? 3.

Misunderstood by His Nearest Kin, vv. 31-35 What was the effect of the conflict between our Lord and the scribes upon His relatives? What was their object in calling Him at this time? Instead of trying to call Him away what ought they to have been doing? (Luke 10:39-42.) Was it an occasion of any grief to Him that His own kin and His own mother misunderstood Him? (Ps. 69:7, 8.) Which caused Him the more bitter grief, the terrific denunciation of His avowed enemies or the strange misunderstanding of His own kin?

Which causes Him the more bitter grief today, the gross misrepresentations of His open enemies or the failure of His professed friends to understand Him? How did He rebuke the interference of these officious relatives? What were the characteristics of this rebuke? Who did He say were His nearest kin and most

loved ones? (John 14:21-23.) Does obedience to God make us children of God and so nearest kin to Christ, or does it prove that we already are children of God and nearest kin to Christ?

How do we become children of God? (John 1:12, 13.) What is the test by which we shall know we are (v. 35)? (1 John 2:29.) Is the love that our Lord here proclaims a general love or a love for each individual who does God's will? If we wish Him to have this deeper and peculiar affection for us as individuals what must we do? If we would do God's will what must we first become? (Ro. 7:18, 19; 8:3, 4; 1 John 3:9; Gal. 3:26.) How much does He love us if we "do the will of God"? Are there any other blessings pronounced in the Bible upon those who do the will of God? (Matt. 7:21; John 7:17; 1 John 2:17; 3:22.) What is the will of God? (John 6:29; 1 John 3:23.) CLASSIFICATION OF TEACHINGS

1. Our Lord

Divine, 23 (Luke 11:17; 1 Kings 8:29), 27 (cf. Matt. 12:28; Luke 11:20); drew the multitudes to Himself, 20, 32; forgot His own needs in His consideration for the needs of the neglected masses, 20; was counted "beside Himself" by His friends, 21; and in league with the devil by His enemies, 22; would not be severed from the path in which God led Him by the impulses of natural affection, or the misunderstanding and opposition of blind friends, or the slanders and plots of unprincipled enemies, 21, 22, 31-33; composed in the face of unjust and outrageous accusation, 23; put His enemies to confusion, 23-29; stronger than Satan, binds him, alone can deliver his victims, 27; forgives all sins but one, 28; finds His nearest kin in those who obey His Father's will, has a peculiar and personal love for each obedient child of God, 34, 35.

2. The Scribes

Dogged the footsteps of our Lord, accused Him of being in league with the devil, attributed the work of the Spirit of God to Satan, 22; committed, or were in imminent peril of committing, the unpardonable sin, 29, 30; were answered and silenced by our Lord, 23-26.

3. The Friends of Our Lord

Misunderstood Him, misrepresented Him, hindered His work, tried to put a stop to His work, 21; interrupted His work, were without calling when they should have been within listening to Him, 31; grieved Him by their lack of appreciation of Himself and His purposes perhaps more than His avowed enemies by their slanders, 21-33; tenderly but severely rebuked by Him, 31-35.

4. Satan

Mighty, masters men and takes possession of them as "his goods," overmastered by Christ, bound by Christ, despoiled of "his goods" by Christ, 27.

5. The Unpardonable Sin

There is an unpardonable sin, 29; there is but one unpardonable sin, 28; it is blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, its character is such and it discloses such settled antagonism to the truth and to good that it is certain that the one who commits it will never repent, it is unpardonable because eternal and never repented of, 29, R. V.

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