

^[8] *“And I say to you, anyone who acknowledges Me before people, the Son of Man will also acknowledge them before the angels of God, ^[9] but one denying Me before people will be denied before the angels of God. ^[10] Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.*

[Luke 12:8-10]

The question on blaspheme of the Holy Spirit is one that has always been debated and misunderstood by many. In my estimation, the problem with this misunderstanding comes about when people forget to look at the context in which it is placed. Let us first look at Matthew 12:22-32. Here, in Matthew 12:22,

^[22] *... a demon-possessed man who was blind and unable to speak was brought to Him (Jesus). He healed him, so that the man could both speak and see. ^[23] And all the crowds were astounded and said, “Perhaps this is the Son of David!”*

Even though the people were “astounded”, in Matthew 12:24 we see that,

^[24] *When the Pharisees heard this, they said, “The man drives out demons only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.”*

Then in Matthew 12:25-27 Jesus begins to respond to the Pharisees accusation. Because of space I will leave it to you to read these verses in your own Bible. Now skip ahead to Matthew 12:28 where Jesus says,

But if I drive out demons BY¹ THE SPIRIT OF GOD, then the Kingdom of God has come to you.

Again, I ask you to read Matthew 12:29-30 in your own Bible. Now consider Matthew 12:31-32 where Jesus says that.

^[31] *... I tell you, people will be forgiven every sin and blasphemy, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ^[32] Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven them. But whoever SPEAKS AGAINST the Holy Spirit, IT WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN them, either in this age or in the one to come.*

Did you hear how these Pharisees *BLASPHEMED* the Holy Spirit. Jesus says they *BLASPHEMED* the Holy Spirit because these men said that Jesus drove out the “demons only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons” [Matthew 12:24]. In saying this these men showed themselves to be against Jesus [Matthew 12:30], and thus against the Holy Spirit and the works the Spirit was displaying through the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit moved Mark to say that these men were speaking against the Holy Spirit [Matthew 12:32] when they said, “He (Jesus)” had “an unclean spirit” [Mark 3:30].

Remember, The word *BLASPHEME* originally meant to speak evil of anyone; to injure by words; to blame unjustly. When applied to God, it means to ascribe to God acts and attributes which He does not possess; or to speak impiously or profanely. It also means to say or do anything by which God’s name or honor is insulted, or which conveys an unfavorable impression of Whom God is.

As it is used here in Matthew 12:24 these men *BLASPHEMED* when they gave credit to *Beelzebul*, the Devil, for what God had done in Jesus by His Holy Spirit. Therefore, these men were accusing Jesus of trying to honor Himself, rather than God. We understand this is not what the Lord was doing, but these men saw Him as attempting to do something which in their minds properly belonged only to God [Mark 2:7; Luke 5:21]. Therefore, these men saw Jesus attempting to do the same thing Satan attempted in Isaiah 14. That is assume the place of God by saying that he could forgive sins. These

¹ “By” is literally “IN”.

men understood this as Jesus affirming that He was divine. They therefore saw Jesus as *blaspheming*, when in fact these men were the ones *blaspheming* God, the Holy Spirit and Jesus.

The sin of *blaspheme* ranks high in the catalogue of presumptuous sins under the Old Testament laws. As we saw yesterday in Numbers 15:30-31 anyone who acted defiantly against God or His Word was to be “*be cut off from their people... because they had despised the LORD’S word and broken His command*”, their *guilt remained upon them*. As we saw yesterday, the term “*be cut off*” means to be put to death, usually by stoning [Leviticus 24:16].

There was no forgiveness for blaspheme under the Mosaic age. This is why Paul says, “*In all the synagogues I often tried to make them (disciples of Jesus) blaspheme by punishing them*” [Acts 26:11]. Under Jewish law, if he could get these disciples of Jesus to *blaspheme* the LORD God, they could be put to death by stoning [see also Acts 22:4].

When the Lord says that blaspheme has no forgiveness, is he not to be understood as meaning that this sin shall be punished in the Christian age the same as it was in the Jewish, by the destruction of the body. Does not blaspheme fall under the sin mentioned in 1 John 5:16-17 called there the “*sin unto death*”? And yet, what of repentance?

Was not the apostle Paul, while still known as Saul, on the Damascus road guilty of this same sin of *blaspheme*? Is this not at least a part of what he is referring to when he says in 1 Timothy 1:15, “*This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: ‘Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners’ – and I am the worst of them.*”

Yet he goes on to make this point in 1 Timothy 1:15.

“*But I received mercy because of this, so that in me, the worst of them, Christ Jesus might demonstrate the utmost patience as an example to those who would believe in Him for eternal life*”.

Will you please pray with me in closing?

O Father God, I praise You that You have revealed to us that we ourselves can sometimes defy You and be guilty of blaspheming Your name. I thankfully praise Your name that you now show us mercy that we may repent of this grievous sin and return to You. Therefore, Lord I pray not only for myself but also for those praying with me today, that You will keep us ever mindful of how we think and speak of You and what You are doing in us through Your Holy Spirit. I ask this that we might always give You all the glory! Guard us so that we do not glorify ourselves or others. Teach us that we do not give people the credit and praise for what You are doing. Open our eyes that we may see. I ask for these blessings in the name of Jesus through the power and authority that is in His name! Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** promising in His Word to never leave you or forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8]!

BECAUSE I DO NOT WANT TO BLASPHEME THE FATHER, SON, OR HOLY SPIRIT! – tom!