



## The Unpardonable Sin

By Jeff Bedwell on December 8, 2022

**READING:** Matthew 12

This chapter includes verses that have troubled many people through the years as they wonder if they have committed the unpardonable sin. Jesus said, *“Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 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”* (Matthew 12:31–32, ESV). How are we to understand these verses?

A right interpretation of any verse of scripture begins by looking at it in light of the *overall* biblical context, and then in light of the *specific* biblical context. Overall the testimony of scripture in both the Old and New Testaments is that God is a forgiving God, forgiving all sorts of sinful actions. The Bible is very honest about the sin of even those who are “heroes of the faith.” The specific context is the opposition of the Pharisees. They have seen all sorts of miraculous works of Jesus, yet instead of recognizing who Jesus is and repenting of their sin, they charge Him with deceit and demonic activity.

Another way to understand these verses is to distinguish between external actions and internal attitude and “heart posture.” Jesus will graciously forgive even those who deny or blaspheme Him (think Peter and Paul in the New Testament). No sinful action is too great to be forgiven through Jesus Christ. On the other hand, if we resist the leading of the Holy Spirit working internally in us to lead us to repentance of our sin and faith in Jesus Christ, no sin is forgiven.

The Pharisees persisted in willful unbelief that for most of them continued until the end. The Bible is clear, no one can be saved if they pridefully and permanently reject the Holy Spirit’s work in directing them to repentance and faith in Christ Jesus regardless of how “religious or good” they perceive themselves to be.

Praise God that the Holy Spirit works in our lives to bring us to genuine faith and repentance. The wonderful promise of God’s Word is still true: *“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved...”* *“For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”* (Romans 10:9 & 13, ESV). Any sin which you can authentically repent of and turn to Christ for will be forgiven.

If you have never called out in repentance from your sin and in faith toward Jesus Christ, do not resist the Holy Spirit’s work a moment longer. Call on Him today. Reach out to the church family to understand more about this. If you have trusted Christ as Savior and Lord, rest in His promises today. Take time to pray for someone you know and love who is resisting the work of God’s Holy Spirit today. Pray that God will soften their hearts to turn from their sin and trust in

Christ. Pray that God will give you an opportunity to speak to them about the hope of the gospel today.

**PRAYER:** Father, I thank You for the convicting, transforming work of the Holy Spirit that enables me to repent of my sin and turn to Christ. Help me rest in Your promises and not my performance today. Use me to point others to a genuine faith in Christ Jesus.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Matthew 13

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