

# Weaving the Word

## *The Unforgivable Sin*

Part 56 - January 24, 2016

Welcome to where we count the cost to follow the One who paid the price!

The Unforgivable Sin, *I sure hope you haven't committed it!*

“... whoever **blasphemes** [i.e. *to speak of or address with irreverence*] against the Holy Spirit will **never be forgiven**; he is guilty of **an eternal sin.**” – Mark 3:29 NIV



We're following Jesus' 3.5 year journey, from His baptism to His resurrection and ascension.

We're currently weaving in His *return* to His home office and headquarters in Capernaum, a fishing village the size of our parking lot.



The fame of our Solid Rock (Mat 7:24) and Morning Star (Rev 22:16) has reached rock-star status. **He can't enter a town openly or He'd be crushed.** (Mk 1:45)

**“Great multitudes,” in the tens of thousands, are “pressing in on Him,” and they're all “trying to touch Him.”** (Mt 8:1; Mk 5:24; Lk 5:1, 6:19)



This is an actual photo of a crowd of about 24,000, that we superimposed over Capernaum, where the masses, who came by land and boat, (Mk 3:8; Jn 6:23-24) made it impossible for Jesus to eat, or His family to even get close. (Mk 3:20-21; Lk 8:19)

This is well accepted, but *not easily pictured*. Know why?

*The limited budgets on Jesus movies!*



Here, Jesus heals a man, blind, deaf,<sup>1</sup> mute, and demon-possessed; a miracle that rivals raising the dead, which He *did* a few days prior. (Lk 7:11) And, **the panicked religious wolves prowl the crowd whispering that Jesus' power is of the devil.**

**[But]** Jesus knew their thoughts ... – Luke 11:17a NIV



So Jesus **called** [*proskaleō: bid to come to one's self*] them and spoke to them in parables ... – Mark 3:23a NIV

<sup>1</sup> “... a demon-possessed man who was blind and **mute**, [*kōphos: deaf; mute*] and Jesus healed him” (Mat 12:22)

*This is one of the most dramatic moments in this story!*



He exposes the false logic of their divided-house accusation. (Mt 12:25-27; Mk 3:23-26; Lk 11:16-19)

And, He reveals His identity as the Finger of God, ushering in the Kingdom of God, through the uniting Spirit of God. (Mt 12:28; Lk 11:20)

Then, He claims to be robbing and dividing *Satan's* house (this world) of all the souls of those held captive. (Mt 12:29; Mk 3:27; Lk 11:21-22)



And, He adds that those not with Him *gathering* are *against* Him, and *scattering*. (Mt 12:30) We pictured frightened children in a burning building, who may run when the fireman comes, *unless* we help 'em to see, he's come to save.



**But, these religious wolves are deliberately scattering the captive souls flocking to the Great Shepherd, by telling 'em He's the devil.**

It's so important to understand the setting of Jesus' warning.

**He isn't speaking to the crowd – *though the crowd is all ears!***

His "blasphemy of the Spirit" warning is aimed at the wolves who are chasing God's children away from the One God sent to save.

Picture getting between a mother grizzly and her ... 24,000 cubs.

I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven them. but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; either in this age or in the age to come. he is guilty of an eternal sin." **He said this** because they were saying, "**He has an evil spirit.**" – Matthew 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-30 NIV

He said *what?*

That: "Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man **will be** forgiven."

And that: "anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit **will not be** forgiven."

So, wait. **They will be forgiven because they spoke against the Son of Man, or won't be because they spoke against the Spirit?**

It's also important to remember, **this is one of the parables** (Mk 3:23) that Jesus spoke to them: *so expect it to require some thought.*

## So, were they speaking against the Son of Man or the Spirit?

And, what's the difference?



The closest parallel to *this*, is Jesus' warning regarding disowning Him, where He clearly says that ...

“... whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.” – Matthew 10:33 NIV

And yet ... *remember Peter* in the courtyard the night Jesus was betrayed and tried?

... those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away.” Then **he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, “I don't know the man!”** [That's some of the *strongest disowning you can do!*] Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, **you will disown me three times.**” And he went outside and wept bitterly. – Matthew 26:73b-75 NIV

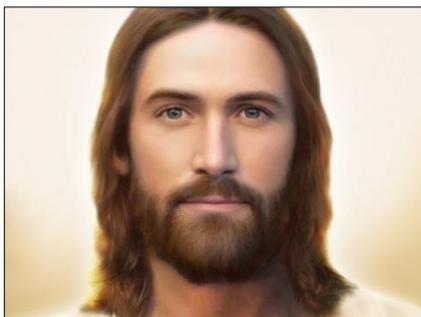
## Did Jesus disown Peter before His Father in heaven?

No. In fact, Peter was forgiven and restored. *Why?*

It's all about the deepest desire of our heart.

Peter's bitter tears of remorse reveal what was in his heart.

Despite his oaths, Peter's deepest desire wasn't to disown his Lord; but, to save his own skin by throwing Jesus under the bus!



And, our inconceivably merciful Savior says: “That is so *forgivable! I can take the bus.*”

Jesus *isn't* saying: “If you ever happened to speak against the Holy Spirit at some point of irrational foolishness, or irritated tantrum, or fear-driven self-preservation, there's no chance of forgiveness, so don't bother repenting.”

**He didn't come to condemn, but to *save!***

Even the wolves.

And, He knows their thoughts: *some* are following orders out of fear, others out of a desire to please their leaders, and still others because they despise His Spirit. Some of these religious predators hated anything, *including God*, that threatened their power and control.

And, they were making the *little wolves, twice the sons of hell that they were.* (Mt 23:15)

**So, Jesus warns ‘em each to look within before it’s too late.**

This was only half of His blasphemy statement; here’s the rest:

“Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. **You brood of vipers,** [See what He did there? Tree. Fruit. Serpents. They were calling Him the devil] how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good **stored up in him**, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil **stored up in him**. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For **by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.**” – Matthew 12:33-37 NIV

**Because our words show the world what we’ve been storing up.**

**So, what do *your* words reveal about *you’re* stockpile?**

**Do you need to change your words?**



**How about your heart?**

My sister and I used to doctor the sick wrecking-yard kittens; and, nothing’s worse than reaching out to what should be warm and fuzzy and finding it cold and hard.

**You can only throw Jesus under the bus for so long, because each time you do, your heart hardens further against God’s Spirit.**

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts ... [because it means it’s cooling and dying to His Spirit] – Hebrews 3:15a NIV

Know what the best evidence is, that we *haven’t blasphemed* the Spirit to the point of unforgiveness? Godly sorrow for our sin. Let’s face it, **if there’s no sorrow for broken intimacy in a relationship ... there’s no relationship to speak of.**

**But, if you fear you’ve committed the unforgivable sin, your sensitivity to God’s Spirit is the overwhelming proof you *haven’t*.**

**You’re just feeling the guilt of throwing Jesus under the bus.**

**Which is a good thing ... *in a weird way*.**