

Jesus' First Trial—Part 4
"Unforgivable Blasphemy"
Matthew 12:30-32

I. The Standard (v. 30)

- a. Conclusion for the Prosecution
 - i. The Pharisees were the so-called shepherds of Israel, but they only scattered God's flock (cf. Mark 9:40; Luke 9:49, 50; 11:21-26; Rom. 5:10)
- b. Introduction for the Defense
 - i. You are either for Christ or against Him.
 - ii. He is either a Liar & Lunatic; or He is your Lord!
 - iii. "Every Christian is either a Missionary or an Imposter!" (Spurgeon)

II. The Charge (v. 31-32)

- a. **Therefore** ties this charge back to the Pharisees false charge of Jesus casting out demons by Satan's power
- b. **I say to you** builds the intensity and authority of Jesus' charge
- c. **any = pasa (πάσα) sin = hamartia (ἁμαρτία)**
- d. **blasphēmia (βλασφημία)** is "to speak against someone in such a way as to harm or injure his or her reputation...reviling, malicious talk, slander" (cf. Lev. 24:10-23; Rev. 13:5-6; 16:9; 17:3)
- e. The offer of a Divine Pardon = **shall be forgiven**
- f. **What is Blasphemy Against the Spirit?**
 - i. Any sin against the Father (v. 31) or the Son (v. 32) can be forgiven (cf. Isa. 53:2; 1 Tim. 1:13-14)
 - ii. The Author's Original Intent

- iii. The Pharisees had seen the glory of God in Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit and they denied the undeniable!!! (cf. Matt. 4:1; Mark 1:12; Luke 4:1, 18; John 3:34; Acts 1:2; 10:38; Rom. 1:4)

g. Why is Blasphemy of the Spirit Unforgivable?

- i. These Pharisees had seen with their own two eyes the revelation of God through Jesus the Son, and the power of the Holy Spirit
 - 1. Having rejected the only source of their salvation there was nothing left for them! (cf. John 14:6)

h. Can I Still Commit this Unforgivable Sin Today?

- i. NO!!!!
- ii. Jesus is speaking directly to these Pharisees who had just accused Him of working miracles through the power of Satan; He is not speaking to you and me!
- iii. Various groups of Pharisees had seen just about every manifestation of God's power through the Holy Spirit throughout Jesus' ministry (Matt. 3:7; 5:17-18; 9:5-6; 12:12-13, 24; cf. John 11:48; Acts 4:16)
 - 1. Yet, they still denied who Jesus was and accused Him of working with Satan.
- iv. Therefore, this sin could only have been committed by these particular men, at this particular time; during Jesus' first Advent