

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S4E20

The Unpardonable Sin - (Matthew 12:22-26)

Description – Today we're jumping into two questions that Christians sometimes wrestle with. Demon possession and the Unpardonable sin. What we all want to know is, can we be possessed by a demon today? And, can a believer commit the unpardonable sin today?

Last week we left off with two massive cliffhangers.

1. The unpardonable sin
2. What about demon possession today?

Do we think there is demon possession today? Yes. There's no indication that demon possession ended with the end of the New Testament.

So if the bible is true and demons were possessing people all the time in the New Testament, then why don't we see it as much today? Well, the attacks by the enemy were heightened in Jesus's day. The demons had a bullseye on Jesus and his ministry, trying their best (or worst) to derail him and his ministry.

There's nothing to indicate that demon possession ended with the New Testament. But as believers in Jesus Christ we cannot be filled with a demon. We're filled with the Holy Spirit of God, we're sealed with the Spirit. How could a demon reside in the same place as the indwelling Holy Spirit?

So you as a believer are sealed by Jesus with the promised Holy Spirit, the inheritance of what is to come. As Paul says in Ephesians 1.

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³ In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. ¹⁴ The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

So a Christian can not be possessed by a demon, but we can battle demonic influences and oppressions in our lives. God can and will use this testing in our lives to build our faith in Him.

Now, on to the unpardonable sin:

Matthew 12:31-32

³¹ Therefore, 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 him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the one to come.

Pastor has met with people through his years in ministry who have felt like they've committed the unpardonable sin.

So what would we say the unpardonable sin is?

Most today would say that it's a state of unbelief, a rejection of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is To take something that is holy and bring it down to an unholy level. In this context, it's to reject Jesus as God's appointed savior. If they reject the only God appointed way of salvation, then what hope do they have? In what way are they then to be saved? They can't, they are without hope.

Is there any sin that God can't forgive? No! He will forgive us if we confess.

1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The unpardonable sin is not a sin that someone can commit today. It was a sin that only the people of Israel could commit in the 1st century.

So if Jesus is the only means for salvation, and that means of salvation is called "demonic" and rejected, then how could one be saved? Blaspheming the Holy Spirit in this context is the nation of Israel, whom God has sent His son to, the people saying, "No, we don't want that."

Notice 4 times in Matthew 12 the phrase, "this generation..."

Matthew 12:39

³⁹ He answered them, "***An evil and adulterous generation*** demands a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

Matthew 12:41

⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will stand up ***at the judgment with this generation and condemn it***, because they repented at Jonah's preaching; and look—something greater than Jonah is here.

Matthew 12:42

⁴² The queen of the south will rise up ***at the judgment with this generation and condemn it***, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and look—something greater than Solomon is here.

Matthew 12:45

⁴⁵ Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and settle down there. As a result, that person's last condition is worse than the first. ***That's how it will also be with this evil generation.***"

This is the sin that the people committed, they rejected God's appointed messiah, the only means of salvation.

Side note: What was the sign of Jonah?

Two things:

1. Jonah was sent to gentiles, the "enemy" of the jews.
2. Jonah dies in the belly of the whale, comes back after 3 days and preaches to the people on Nineveh.

The second part of it was repentance. Mass repentance came to the gentiles, to the city of Nineveh.

The unpardonable sin cannot be committed today. It was just during the 1st century that this was possible.

For next week: What happens when Jesus turns from the Jews to preaching and teaching just to the disciples?