

Sins Against the Holy Spirit (SR: Matt. 12:22-32)

People sin against God by disobeying His will. While Christ was on earth, people sinned against Him. People also sin against the Holy Spirit.

I. Blaspheming the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:31).

- A. This is one of the sins against the Spirit which has caused people a great deal of concern.
 - 1. Many people have fears they have committed such a sin and despair of obedience to the gospel.
 - 2. Blasphemy means to speak to hurt or to speak against. The sin begins in the heart and is completed in a deliberate outward act. It is the final rejection of the Spirit in spite of obvious evidence.
- B. We have no clear NT example of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. It must have been possible for people to commit this sin or else Christ would not have warned.
 - 2. The Pharisees had accused Christ of being in league with Beelzebub. This was a malignant rejection of Christ against their own reason. It was a closing of their eyes to the evidence.
 - 3. Apply the same principle to blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and I feel you have the correct definition of this sin. What about forgiveness? There can be none for such a person in such a state.
 - 4. The guilty have closed the door by their obstinate refusal to accept the obvious conclusion based on clear evidence. Paul was guilty of blasphemy, but was forgiven as he acted in ignorance (1Tim. 1:13).
 - 5. People could speak against Christ while He was on earth, and still be saved after Pentecost. If one rejects the testimony of the Spirit, there is no further dispensation and no further revelation.

II. Despise Unto the Spirit of Grace (Heb. 10:26-29)

- A. To despise is to give insult or treat insultingly after receiving His blessings.
 - 1. The writer speaks of treading underfoot the Son of God. It is likened to happenings in the OT (10:28). The reference is not to all sins, but to those of open rebellion.
 - 2. Only those who have been sanctified by Christ's blood know the Spirit enough to insult Him.
- B. Notice verse 25 from which the author started his discussion.
 - 1. Forsaking the assembly is one act of such rebellion.
 - 2. When God's people refuse to do what the Spirit teaches, they are insulting and doing despite to Him.

III. Lying Is Another Sin Against the Spirit.

- A. We have an example in Acts 5.
- B. The design of Ananias was to deceive the Spirit with lies (Acts 5:3f).
 - 1. Peter identifies the Holy Spirit as God. Ananias was accused of lying to God (5:4), or to the Spirit (5:3). It was not to people that he lied, but to God.

2. The whole lesson is against hypocrisy! Hypocrisy is a sin against the Holy Spirit (Gal. 6:7).

IV. Resisting the Spirit Is A Sin Of Many

- A. This sin is brought to our mind in Stephen's sermon to the Jews (Acts 7:51).
 1. It is a strong expression and implies active opposition to the Holy Spirit.
 2. So strong and active is the rejection that it led this people to kill Stephen.
- B. These people refused the words of the Spirit and went against them.
 1. When we refuse to obey the gospel, we are, to that degree, resisting the Spirit.
 2. Each time you resist the Spirit's message makes it easier to resist next time.

V. Next, Let Us Consider Defiling The Temple Of The Holy Spirit

- A. Two things are spoken of as the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor. 6:19f; 3:16f).
- B. In both passages Paul is emphasizing the sacredness of the temple of the Holy Spirit.
 1. The church must be kept the church and not be used for unholy purposes.
 2. The church and the bodies of Christians should be used as God has specified.

VI. Let Us Consider Quenching The Spirit (1Thess. 5:19)

- A. This seems to refer to quenching the miraculous gifts and powers.
 1. That they could quench the Spirit even with miraculous powers seems obvious (1Cor. 14:32).
 2. Even if we do not have miraculous powers, we do have a definite word and we must not suppress the Spirit's word and message to our conscience.
- B. The Spirit is likened to fire that can be smothered. We quench Him by overloading our hearts.

VII. Grieving The Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30)

- A. This is a general description and refers to all our sins.
 1. The command here is practical. The Christian is to live a life that is an example. The Spirit is grieved when unholy actions, wicked deeds, or anything contrary to God are done by Christians.
 2. God is good, but He will be severe to us if we rebel and grieve the Spirit.
- B. Israel was similarly charged (Isa. 63:10).

We have seen seven distinct sins against the Holy Spirit. Each sin carries the penalty of spiritual death. The wages of sin is death. Salvation from sin is in Christ.

What if one of the soldiers who crucified Jesus came forward on Pentecost? How would he have been received?

Who is your Simon of Cyrene?