

### **What Is The Unpardonable Sin Mentioned in Matthew 12:32?**

This verse says: “whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.” Verse 31 makes it clear that the speaking “against” the Holy Spirit is “blasphemy”; that is, to speak maliciously or slanderously against a person. In this context, the speaking was not only impious and irreverent but it attributed the manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit to Satan.

From the context we learn that the Lord Jesus had performed some miracles which caused the people to say, “Is not this the son of David?” (v. 23). The Pharisees realized that if Jesus were recognized as the Messiah they would lose their hold on the people, so they charged that Jesus’ power was that of Beelzebub, the prince of demons. It was this which the Lord Jesus declared to be an unforgivable sin.

It may be noticed that this sin was committed deliberately, and with full knowledge of what they were doing. It is not a sin which can be committed inadvertently or in ignorance. Paul declared that he compelled people to blaspheme (Acts 26:9-11). Yet he says in 1 Timothy 1:13, “I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.” This was not the case with these Pharisees. Their offense showed a state of hardened rebellion against God that would stop at nothing, not even blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. This is the unpardonable sin.

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