

Matthew 12:15-37

Gospel of the Messiah & His Kingdom Come

PHARISEES PLOT JESUS' MURDER

Jesus Goes to Ground (12:15-21)

^{12:14-16} But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. Jesus, aware of this, *withdrew from there*. And many followed him, and he healed them all and ordered them *not to make him known*.

“To destroy” in this context means “to kill”. Jesus goes into hiding. Matthew interprets Jesus’ withdrawal as the fulfillment of Isaiah 42:1-4 which emphasizes that Messiah’s ministry will be Holy Spirit empowered, non-combative, expanded to include Gentiles and ultimately successful.

Crossing the Rubicon (12:22-32)

Crossing the Rubicon is an idiom that means someone did something from which they can not go back.

^{12:31} Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, ***but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.***

^{12:32} ***...whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.***

**TO BLASPHEME THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO ASSERT JESUS IS
EMPOWERED BY SATAN, NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

To ***blaspheme the Holy Spirit*** is to insist that every healing, every cleansing of a leper, every resurrection, every exorcism, the calming of the winds and waves, was evil and was done for an evil purpose by Satan working through Jesus of Nazareth to harm the nation of Israel.

For such implacable rebellion and rejection there is no remedy. There is no forgiveness in this life or in the life to come for those who blasphemed the Holy Spirit. It is reminiscent of Pharaoh hardening his heart against the mighty works of God until God confirmed him in his hardness. The only thing that awaits those who blasphemed the Holy Spirit is divine punishment in this life (70AD) and divine condemnation at the Great White Throne Judgment.

The *blasphemy of the Holy Spirit* was a time bound sin possible only at the time of Jesus' earthly ministry.

The Lie of the Pharisees Exposes Their Evil Character and Their Future Condemnation (12:33-37)

12:34 You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

12:36-37 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, ³⁷ for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

God loves you and wants a personal relationship with you. He has revealed Himself in so many ways so that you might believe He exists and enter into a loving relationship with Him. The physical universe bears witness to God especially as on one hand our understanding of the universe increases and on the other hand our understanding of genetics increases. The Bible reveals God through fulfilled prophecy and ultimately through the life and teachings of Jesus. Archaeology consistently validates the historical truth of the Bible. The transformed lives of followers of Jesus bears witness to the reality of God. How are you responding to all the ways God is reaching out to you?

You will encounter people who do not and will not believe in God or Jesus. They do not want to believe. No amount of evidence or revelation from God will change their minds. This is a hard reality for good-hearted, loving Christians to accept. If you find yourself dealing with such a person, do not be critical of your efforts. You feel grief and sadness for them, but don't lose your peace. Be kind. Be loving always. But accept the sad reality that they do not *want* to believe.

Jesus' criticism of the Pharisees affirms a truism: what comes out of a person's mouth reveals their true character. What do your words reveal about you?

NEWS & NEEDS

What's Happening at Grace:

Women's Ministry: *Women's Baked Potato and Bingo Night.* Oct 12, 4-6 pm.

New Group Starting! *FATHERS Group every other Thursday 6-7:30 pm starting Oct 23.*

Business Meeting: November 2, 4:00 pm

FIND DETAILS AND SIGNUPS ON THE APP!

Opportunities to Serve:

VOM: Combs/hair picks of all sizes



Church Center App

