**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, October 20, 2020**

Good afternoon!

When I say “The Unpardonable Sin” what do you think of? Is there such a sin? Matthew 12:31 says, “Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.” Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, what in the world is that? Have you ever committed a sin that you really thought was just unforgivable? Is there any sin that God actually refuses to forgive? What about this sin of blasphemy? What’s it all about?

The word blasphemy in the original language can be defined in a number of ways including, to speak hurt, to speak against, to profane, or speak irreverently of. In addition, it includes to disregard, reject, refuse or misrepresent. In the case of Matthew 12:31, it could be said that there was a blatant disregard and rejection of God and His power. Now, Paul in I Timothy 1:13 referred to himself before his conversion as a blasphemer. The Jews in Romans 2:24 were said to be blaspheming by teaching something that misrepresented the word of God. In Acts 26:11 we learn that Paul forced Christians to blaspheme. Yet Jesus said that “any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.” What’s the difference?

Think of an incomplete puzzle for a moment. God the Father had been speaking to His people for centuries. Then Jesus came in the flesh and dwelt among mankind and revealed the will of God. Many people misunderstood Jesus, His teachings, and His kingdom. However, when the Holy Spirit arrived with power in Acts 2 it was confirmation of who Jesus was and the completion of God’s predetermined plan. Miraculous powers of speaking in tongues seen on the day of Pentecost, as well as other “signs and wonders and... various gifts of the Holy Spirit” (Hebrews 4:4), through time were clear evidence of the power of the Holy Spirit and the full completion of the Godhead being represented. The puzzle was now completed. This is why Jesus says to the disciples in John 16:13, “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth.” The Holy Spirit perfected the testimony that guides into all truth! This is reflected in what the Hebrew writer says in Hebrews 6:4-6, “For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance.” Impossible? Unforgivable sin? No! The point here is that in addition to being a partaker of the Holy Spirit, God’s provision for mercy is exhausted! No more convincing proofs in addition to this will be coming. If this doesn’t do it, nothing will! If one rejects God even after this, then the condition of their hardened heart keeps them from repenting! If you reject the forgiver then forgiveness is unavailable! Not that God is unwilling to forgive but the state of being hardened keeps one from believing. This results in being unforgivable!

Two points:

1. The unpardonable sin is not a one-time act but a continual state of being. There isn’t any certain sin that is unforgivable by God. However, the hardened condition of the heart keeps one from accepting the forgiver! If you will not accept the forgiver then there cannot be any saving power to be forgiven! As long as this hardened condition remains, one is in an unforgivable situation. This idea is carried in Hebrews 10:26 “For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.” This is a state of deliberate persistent open violation toward God. This is unlike a condition of stumbling due to being human. We see this by way of contrast in I John 1:7 “but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” Think of a marriage. Within the covenant relationship, there are always stumbling’s but the covenant remains in tack. But when one turns their back on the covenant and divorces themselves from the other the covenant is broken.

2. The unpardonable sin is a condition of willful separation from a relationship with God. In I John 5:16 we read, “If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.” What’s the difference between a sin that leads unto death (unforgivable) and one that does not lead unto death (forgivable)? Think of the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. Both had issues with their relationship with the father but regardless, the older son remained with the Father and the younger son took his inheritance and left! Both were wrong, one remained, the other willfully separated himself and was said to be lost! In like manner the point seems to be here that if we ask the Father to forgive and accept one who has willfully left and separated himself from God, it would seem that His hands are tied as long as they continue in this willful separated state! Forgiving the one who rejects the forgiver can’t be done until he excepts the forgiver again! This is an unpardonable sin condition. The older brother never crossed that line. Thankfully the younger brother came to his senses and returned!

Praise God for the fact that there is no sin past present or future that is beyond the reach of His forgiveness! His amazing grace is fully available for all those who come before Him with humble hearts as believers. So, if you have been wondering or concerned if you have ever committed the unpardonable sin, you haven’t. A heart that seeks to be right with God is never unforgivable. A softened heart rather than a hardened heart makes all the difference in the world!

Blessings,

Mike