

Sermon Series: Spurred on to Holiness (and Power) by Immersing Ourselves into the Life of Christ Through the Eyes of the Apostles – A Harmony of All Four Gospels

Sermon Title: “The Unpardonable Sin, Blaspheming the Holy Spirit”

July 14, 2019

Today’s Scripture:

Series Theme verse: Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (ESV)

Introduction: Many times I have been asked the question about blaspheming the Holy Spirit. People are genuinely afraid that they have done something, said something, decided something that offended the Holy Spirit and will spend eternity in hell. We need to settle this matter in your hearts today, but a bigger matter is this – are you listening to the Holy Spirit? Are you believing what he is telling you? Are you trusting him by faith that all of God’s promises are reliable?

Main point: Listen to the Holy Spirit when He is talking to you.

Context:

Exegesis

1. The Good News (gospel or euaggilion –evangelical) is the same thing as the Kingdom of God. This was Jesus’ mission and is ours today. People need to have a chance to hear the freeing power of the truth of believing in Jesus. *3Then it came to pass soon afterward that he went about on a tour, city by city and village by village, preaching and announcing the Glad News, the Kingdom of God*
 - The Kingdom of God is the opposite of the Kingdom of Satan. If people are under Satan’s control and delusions and bound in chains then the Kingdom of God is all about voluntarily choosing to be under God’s control and having our chains broken. FREEDOM and JOY, in contrast to misery and depression.
 - Carter Conlon talked about his progress in sanctification. It took him 13 years of fighting his own addiction to alcoholism without much success because he tried in his own power. Once he truly believed that God’s promises of freedom are true and when he stopped his dreadful legalism and efforts he found freedom and joy and grace.
 - This is what we are offering our neighbors. An abundant life. When I walk our city streets I am aware of a darkness that broods behind many of these homes. There is a sadness that is filling our streets. People may be O.K. physically (just barely) but emotionally there seems to be a huge void. All I had to do was show a little kindness to a lady on tenth, twice. Yvonne told me she is going to send her a card. Thank you. The

light of the gospel may penetrate that home. Here are some women who have experienced that freedom and JOY.

2. Certain women listened to the Holy Spirit and once transformed, they served. What was true of them is true today. *And with him went the twelve, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities- Mary, Magdalene, out of whom had gone seven demons and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Suzanna, and many others-who kept providing for him from their means.*
 - In her poverty, Mary was able to serve physically. Perhaps cook, fetch water, repair torn robes. This is a great encouragement to all those who say what can I do for the Lord, I'm poor. Expound.
 - Joanna was obviously in a different class than Mary. She was wealthy. She was connected. She had social status. She was liberated enough to use her husband's money to pay for Jesus' travel expenses. She too physically served Jesus but she used her wealth as a tool T-O-O-L to accomplish ministry.
 - Isn't it amazing how these two were ministry partners? There are many rich Christians in this city like Joanna, who see no difference between themselves and the poorest of the poor. They give the impression we are on the same team. These gracious people outnumber the few Christians who carry an air. Nuff said.
 - These women are mentioned for a reason. First to show that women are not excluded from the Kingdom. Secondly to show that they have an important ministry. Third to show that Jesus valued them as partners since they traveled with him alongside the disciples. And fourth, to show us that all who are liberated by the gospel message will joyfully serve and sacrifice. They will tithe their income and time and talents. Once more we will say the church is not a restaurant where people sit to be served it is more like Mom's kitchen where everyone pitches in cooking and cleaning up.

3. Jesus' own mother and brothers failed to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit because they intended to save Jesus from his own "foolishness". *And his kinfolk, when they heard of it, set out to lay hold of him, for men were saying, "He is out of his head."*
 - Notice that Joseph is not mentioned in this passage. If Joseph were still alive, Jesus could not announce himself as the King of Israel, prince maybe, but not king.
 - You can imagine the speech Mary gave to Jesus. It would go something like this "It's great that you are healing everybody and doing all kinds of miracles, but don't you see how the things you are teaching are getting everybody upset? You will never get the endorsement to be King of Israel from the elite if you keep on offending them like you do. Tone it down son."
 - The ones closest to Jesus were listening to the voice of the world instead of the voice of the Holy Spirit. How many "good" Christian parents try to discourage

their sons and daughters from going onto the mission field or enter the ministry? Why do they do that? It's dangerous. It's not profitable. It will take the children and grandchildren far away from home. These parents are not listening to the Holy Spirit today just like Jesus' family didn't listen back then.

- Notice also that these family members lived with Jesus for thirty years and they didn't get it! Message for us is don't think that you can witness by your good life only and expect people to get saved. They won't get saved until they hear the Gospel and be convicted by the Holy Spirit. That all came later for Jesus' brothers, James and Jude.
4. The religious elite were not listening to the Holy Spirit because if they were they would have never accused him of using Satan's power to remove demons. *And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He has Beelzebul," and, "He casts out demons through the Prince of demons."*
- Can you imagine the fight that almost broke out between the disciples and the Pharisees?
 - Today's Pharisees is any person who claims to be religious and have an inside track on getting to heaven but they are so filled with pride and legalism believing that they are saving themselves by their good works. Naturally these people today are skeptical of miracles and deliverance ministries because their religion is dead. They can't kick a rookie demon out of a half-possessed person. And when they see a ministry that is effectively delivering people from Satan's powers they make the same accusation the JERKS in this passage did. The miracles must be from Satan. Well, if Jesus were to talk to these self-righteous legalistic prideful religious snobs he would use the same argument.
5. Failure to repeatedly listen to the Holy Spirit's call to repent will lead to eternal damnation- this is the unforgivable sin.

Application

How do you hear the voice of the Spirit? 1) It sounds like advice coming from inside of you. When I hear a thought it often sounds like this "Let's call _____ before beginning the next thing on the to-do list." Frequently I will say so who is us Let's is short for let us. Is that the Holy Spirit directing? YES, it is and since he lives inside me and you he has every right to say let us do something together. If a voice says, you are guilty, sinful, shamed, notice that it is in the second person. You are being accused by an evil spirit not the Holy Spirit.

Now when you hear the voice of the Lord, don't ignore it. We may not have the same eternal consequences as those who never repent, but eventually the Lord will stop talking to you. Why shouldn't He when he is being ignored?

