

## Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit

The unforgiveable sin is mentioned in Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:27-28 and Luke 12:10 as blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

The word 'blasphemy' is translated in different ways: blasphemy, hurling abuse, slandering, abusive language, reviling, maligning, speaking of as evil and speaking against. The word basically means to slander.

Blasphemy is *speaking against* something or someone *in a public way* in order to *make other people believe that a good thing is actually a bad thing*.

To understand what 'blasphemy against the Holy Spirit' means one needs to look at the context. In Matthew 12:17-21 the powerful deeds that Jesus did are said to be the work of God's Spirit working through Jesus. In 12:22, Jesus drives out a demon, which given the previous verses must have been by the working of God's Spirit.

In 12:24 the Pharisees upon learning that the people are beginning to think that Jesus is from God (12:23) *blaspheme* by speaking to the people in order to make them believe that the Holy Spirit's presence in Jesus is actually the presence of Beelzebul, the prince of demons. The Pharisees are blaspheming the Holy Spirit by speaking against him publically in order to cause people to believe that the Holy Spirit is in fact demonic.

Jesus in response affirms that he is indeed casting out demons by the Spirit of God (12:28). He then says (12:31-32):

Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people,  
but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

And *whoever speaks* a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven,  
but *whoever speaks* against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven,  
either in this age or in the age to come.

## Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit

An unbeliever may say all kinds of things against Jesus, as the Apostle Paul did before his conversion, and be forgiven.

The unforgiveable sin is to know who the Holy Spirit is, recognise his work and then to knowingly and actively choose to speak against him in order to cause other people to think that the Holy Spirit is evil. A person who continues defiantly, intentionally and purposefully in the activity of teaching others to consider the Holy Spirit as evil (thus preventing them from being saved) commits the unforgivable sin.

To be practicing this sin one really needs to be speaking to others, hate God and have a very hard heart that resists God continually. If a person does this sin then they are not worried about having done it.