THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

Intro: As a basis for our lesson let us turn to Matthew 12:31 “Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.” This statement made by Jesus must have been startling to those who heard it. Men today are intrigued by those words and they are of great interest. But they have also been some words that have produced problems to a great number of people. What is this sin which can not be forgiven.

I. SOME COMMON VIEWS.
   A. Murder
   B. Suicide
   C. Adultery
   D. When viewed in light of the context, these views cannot be seriously considered.

II. THE CONTEXT
   A. A fundamental rule of understanding the Bible is to examine a verse in light of its context.
   B. What is the setting of the statement.
      1. Jesus heals a man possessed with a devil; Mat. 12:22 “Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.”
      2. The Pharisees claimed he healed him by the power of Beelzebub; Mat. 12:24 “But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.”
      3. A divided kingdom cannot stand; Mat. 12:25-26 “And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?”
      4. Their children as examples and results; Mat. 12:27-30 “And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”
      5. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit; Mat. 12:31-32 “Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And 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.”
      6. The words we speak come from the heart; Mat. 12:33-37 “Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”

III. THE TWO MAJOR VIEWS.
   A. Rejection of the Gospel
      1. That an individual’s heart is so hardened that he will not listen to the pleadings of the Spirit through the word.
2. The example often used is one in a canoe going downstream toward a waterfall. He passes by one and then by another who stand on the bank warning him. He finally passes by the third and last warning and is beyond hope. They say God is the first warning, then Christ warned and the final warning is the Holy Spirit.

3. The problem I see with this view.
   a. Christ talked of blasphemy and not rejection.
   b. Mat. 12:32 “And 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.”
   c. Blasphemy and speak against used interchangeable; Luke 12:10 “And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.”
   d. Blasphemy means “to speak reproachfully, rail at, or revile.”

B. Speaking Against
   1. The Pharisees attempted to discredit Christ, by speaking against the miracle Christ performed by the power of the Holy Spirit.
   2. Mark 3:30 “Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.”
   3. This claim is never again made against one who performed a miracle.
      a. It had been made before by the Pharisees.
      b. Mat. 9:34 “But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.”

IV. CAN IT BE COMMITTED NOW
   A. If what I believe is correct, then: No
      1. A miracle would have to be performed.
      2. The time of miracles are past.
   B. Christ came to forgive sins—all sins.
      1. 1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
      2. Paul uses himself as an illustration of this; 1 Tim. 1:15-16 “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 16Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.”
   C. However, man can reject the Gospel and become so hardened that he will never obey the Truth.
      1. Paul speaks of those who have their conscience seared; 1 Tim. 4:2 “Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”
      2. Heb. 3:13, 15; 4:7 “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin....While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.... Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”
      3. We must guard against becoming hardened by sin and keep our hearts pliable to God’s Word.

Conclusion: When man obeys what Christ has set forth he will have his sins, all sins, taken away.