

The Gospel of John

Lesson #89
The Journey
Jim Hoffman

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The Gospel of John

- John 10:19 There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. 20 Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” 21 Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”
- Jesus stated in the previous verses that he had authority to not just decide when, how, and if he would die – he was also quite plain that if he lays down his life, he has power to take it up again.

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The Gospel of John

- Jesus had just spoken of his deity, his autonomy over his life, and his ability to live again – at least veiled references to his death, burial, and resurrection.
- It confused the crowd because they could not reconcile “imposter Jesus” and “Messiah Jesus”.
- It is always just best to take Jesus at his word and hope that your understanding catches up afterwards – it should be much easier for us to do since we have the rest of the Bible and the Holy Spirit within us.

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- There is a split in the crowd that was listening perhaps because he is speaking things never heard so plainly before.
- Some things just do not change – when the word of God is taught things are frequently said that require faith to believe and division can occur.
- Acts 17:32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” 33 So Paul went out from their midst. 34 But some men joined him and believed.

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- To get back to the division in the crowd – the division over Jesus’ words is no small matter as the charges by one side are nothing short of blasphemy.
- They are certainly blaspheming Jesus and perhaps the Holy Spirit so we should deal with the “unpardonable” sin now.
- Mark 3:28 “I tell you the truth, all sin and blasphemy can be forgiven, 29 but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. This is a sin with eternal consequences.” 30 He told them this because they were saying, “He’s possessed by an evil spirit.”

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- Much controversy exists around the idea of an “unpardonable” sin, and if it exists, what it might be.
- *Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”*
- What Mark wrote tells us that to blaspheme the Holy Spirit has eternal consequences.

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- Let's start by defining the word "blasphemy" - It means to vilify, speak evil of, or rail against a person. (Strongs #G988)
- In Mark's text, Jesus makes it clear that "***all sin and blasphemy can be forgiven***", but then follows up with "***but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven***".
- Why is it forgivable to blaspheme God (Paul admitted to it in 1st Timothy 1:13), but not forgivable to blaspheme the Holy Spirit? (they are one and the same)

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- The charge in John 10 is of the same nature as the charge in Mark 3 – in both cases the "Jews" were accusing Jesus of using Satanic power to do miracles and prophesy.
- We've already established that it is certainly forgivable to blaspheme God from the Apostle Paul's own admission, and then in Mark 3 we read –
- "All sin and blasphemy can be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven".

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- So how do we explain what Jesus said in Mark 3 about blaspheming the Holy Spirit being a sin that will never be forgiven?
- Back to Paul – Paul blasphemed God and was writing that confession after being forgiven and born again.
- Perhaps the only resolution is to assume that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit could not be committed once Jesus' ministry in the flesh had ceased.

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- One conclusion is that blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is a rather complicated issue, and opinions on this subject are like noses, everyone has one! 😊
- And I too have a nose and an opinion - To blaspheme the Holy Spirit, if the sin can be committed today, must be a rejection of His ministry. (see John 16:7-11)
- I believe this sin is the life-long rejection of the Holy Spirit's ministry - in a word, "unbelief".

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John 16:7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

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- If the mind of the unsaved is in such a state of unbelief that the same one says, "no", "no", "no" to the convicting and convincing work of the Holy Spirit they have no hope.
- Adults rarely come to Jesus until they know they are, in a sense, being dangled over the fires of hell by the Judge of the universe.
- If one is never convinced of their condition we would call that "unbelief" and that is what prevents him from coming to Jesus – he cannot be saved by grace through faith.

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- Now, back to the original charge by Jews that Jesus was oppressed by a demon – that charge barely makes common sense, let alone coming close to being true spiritually.
- If Jesus was using demonic power, then that makes him the first person I know of to ever use demonic power to do good.
- And some of the “Jews” admit as much when they say, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

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Luke 12:51 “Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. 52 For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. 53 They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

No matter how many veiled OT references there were about Jesus, here he presents himself plain as day and demands that every soul make a decision, for or against him. ¹⁴

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Matthew 12:30 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Mark 9:39 “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, 40 for whoever is not against us is for us.”

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Matthew 12:30 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Mark 9:39 "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "For no one who does evil in my name can in the next moment begin doing good about me, 40 for whoever is not against us is for us.

NO MIDDLE GROUND

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Questions?

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