

THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

Mark 3:22-30 (ESV) ²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” ²³ And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end.²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. ²⁸ Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—³⁰ for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Introduction: *Is there really a sin for which there is no forgiveness?* No doubt this disturbed Jesus’ original hearers as it continues to disturb readers of the New Testament today. Perhaps you’ve wondered, “Have I ever committed the unpardonable sin?” It’s not a trivial question. This is a difficult passage—emotionally, spiritually, and textually. It calls for serious reflection. What does Jesus mean when he says that there is a sin that is unforgivable? Who can commit this unforgivable sin?

I. **The Confrontation** — v. 22

II. **The Refutation** — vv. 23-27

III. **The Explanation** — vv. 28-30