



Grace Fellowship Church
Pastor/Teacher, Jim Rickard
Sunday, January 15, 2023

Luke Chapter 22

V. The Condemnation of the Son of Man for Men, Luke 19:28-24:49.

E. Thursday, Luke 22:54-23:55.

2. Christ mocked, beaten, vs. 63-65.

Vs. 65

Luke 22:65, “And they were saying many other things against Him, blaspheming.”

In this verse, more verbal abuse in the form of blaspheming is directed towards our Lord Jesus Christ regarding His Deity.

“**And,**” KAI, “**they were saying many other things against Him,**” HETEOS, “other things,” POLLA, “many,” LEGO EIS AUTOS, “said towards Him,” “**blaspheming,**” BLASPHEMEO that means, “blaspheme, speak evil of, speak abusively, slander, etc.” **Mat 26:65**, uses it for the high priest’s accusation against Jesus, and **Mat 27:39-44; Mark 15:29-32; Luke 23:39**, use it regarding verbal abuse towards Jesus, while He was being crucified. Luke’s account regarding the Crucifixion speaks of one of the thieves being crucified with Him blaspheming against Jesus.

Luke 23:39, “One of the criminals who were hanged *there* was hurling abuse (BLASPHEMEO) at Him, saying, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!””

BLASPHEMEO in classical Greek means, “to speak profanely of sacred things.” God, His name, or His Word(s) directly or indirectly are usually the objects of blasphemy by His enemies. Although not used much in the OT, cf. **Lev 24:14-16**, it was a very serious issue for the people. In the NT, it is found in 14 books by 8 writers. Therefore, we see the serious nature of blaspheming during the Church Age too, especially regarding Jesus Christ.

Lev 24:15-16, “You shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘If anyone curses his God, then he will bear his sin. ¹⁶Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death’.”

At the center of the Jewish charge of blasphemy against Jesus was the assumption that Jesus was committing blasphemy against God because He made Himself equal with God, **John 10:33-36**; cf. **Mark 2:7** and its parallels. Accusing Jesus of blasphemy because He asserted His messiahship, was the ultimate charge for which He was crucified, **Mat 26:63-67; Mark 14:61-64**.

Blasphemy, is more than a simple, fleeting questioning of God’s power. It is more than vented anger at God. Blasphemy is the willful rejection and denial of God’s power (i.e., His Spirit) at work, through Jesus Christ. As such, it is also a denial that Jesus Christ is God incarnate.

Remember what Jesus taught regarding blaspheming in **Mat 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-29; Luke 12:10**.

Mark 3:28-30, “Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin,” ³⁰because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.””

Blaspheming the Holy Spirit means to deny His ministry of Common and Efficacious Grace, which is to make the Gospel understandable to the unbeliever and when they believe the Gospel, make it effective for their salvation.

Common and efficacious grace emphasizes the total helplessness of the spiritually dead person. No matter what a spiritually dead person can do, it is not salvation. Salvation is accomplished by faith alone in Jesus Christ, the one thing that God the Holy Spirit can make effective.

The mechanics for common grace are found in **John 16:8-11**. When people respond to the gospel they are responding to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The pre-salvation ministry of the Spirit is convicting or convincing them about who the Christ is and what He can do for them. In **Act 7:51**, blaspheming the Holy Spirit is called “**resisting the Holy Spirit.**” In **Heb 10:29**, it is called “**insulting the Spirit of grace.**” In addition, there are several passages which mention the unpardonable sin in the Tribulation, **2 Thes 2:11-12; Rev 13:4-6; 14:9-11**. In fact, there are passages which deal with it in every age but always it is the same sin; rejection of Christ.

Acts 7:51, “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. “

Heb 10:29, “How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?”

Therefore, to blaspheme the Holy Spirit is to deny His ministry. To deny His ministry means you do not believe in Jesus as your Savior. Therefore, blaspheming the Holy Spirit is tantamount to rejecting Jesus Christ as Savior, which is the unpardonable or unforgivable sin. It is the one sin, (i.e., unpardonable act), Jesus could not and did not pay for upon the Cross. As such, in essence, this sin can only be committed by an unbeliever, because it is unbelief and/or rejection of Christ as Savior, that is the unpardonable act.

- It is a single sin or act, it is not progressive or repetitious, except in its expression, (i.e., rejection of Christ once and every time the gospel is heard it is continually rejected).
- It is unpardonable. There is nothing in the plan of God that provides forgiveness for it, yet it can be rectified by faith in Christ for salvation.
- It is condemned. When this act of unbelief is operational it is always condemned, **John 3:18**. The alternative to this unpardonable act is to believe in Christ and be saved, but if rejection persists to the point of death, then there is no hope.
- Finally, it is impossible for the believer to commit the unpardonable sin, because they have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and their sins have been blotted out / washed clean, **Isa 1:18; 43:25; 44:22; Psa 51:1, 91 John 1:7**.

Therefore, as these people were hurling abuse and blasphemes toward Jesus, these individual sins would be paid for by Him upon the Cross. And, if they later would come to believe upon Him as their Savior, those sins would be forgiven. But, if they never came to believe upon Him as Savior, they would remain in the sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit, because of their willful rejection of Jesus as the Christ. As such, they would not be saved.

So, whether pre or post salvation, anyone can curse God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or God’s Word and have those sins forgiven after they are saved, because Jesus paid for them upon the Cross. Yet, if someone never comes to believe in Jesus as their Savior, their verbal abuse towards Him, God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, or God’s Word remains unforgiven, because they have blasphemed the Holy Spirit and His ministry of Common and Efficacious Grace. Nevertheless, just because the believer can have his sins of blaspheme against Jesus, God the

Father, or God's Word forgiven, it is still a very egregious sin to commit that will be disciplined if it lingers in their soul and goes unconfessed.

Lev 24:16, "Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him."

In conclusion, during these first two trials, Jesus received severe physical and verbal abuse from the Jewish religious leaders. And as we will see, there is much more to come from the Romans.