

INTRODUCTION: Jesus cast out demons by the power of the Holy Spirit but was accused of being demon-possessed and of casting out demons by Satanic power. This led to His teaching on the “unforgivable sin.” But there is much more to His teaching that day, including the following implications.

IMPLICATION 1: JESUS WARNED TO AVOID SIN

- A. *“Whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven”*
 - 1. His worst human **enemies**
 - 2. He all but **defined** it
 - a. Satan could not **defeat** Satan
 - b. Jesus > **strong** man
 - c. ∴ Jesus **power** = Holy Spirit
- B. Pt: **Prevention**: Jesus **desired** it
- C. Application:
 - 1. **Understand** it
 - 2. Be **comforted** by it
 - 3. Be **warned**

IMPLICATION 2: JESUS WANTED TO FORGIVE SIN

- A. *“All the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them.”*
 - 1. All sin = **forgivable**
 - 2. God = **gracious, merciful, forgiving**
 - 3. No person = too **bad** to forgive
- B. Pt: **Pardon**: Jesus **offered** it
- C. Application:
 - 1. **Understand** it
 - 2. **Accept** it
 - 3. **Praise** God for it

IMPLICATION 3: JESUS WARRED TO OVERCOME SIN

- A. *“No-one can enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man.”*
 - 1. He > **strong man**
 - 2. He “**robbed**” his house
 - 3. Strong man still **strong**
- B. Pt: **Power**: Jesus **has** it
- C. Application:
 - 1. **Understand** it
 - 2. **Live** in it

CONCLUSION: JESUS SAID MORE THAN UNFORGIVABLE

- A. **Hear** it all
- B. **Trust** it all
- C. **Tell** it all

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- A. *“All the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them.”*
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INTRODUCTION:

One day the first grade teacher was reading the story of Chicken Little to her class. She came to the part of the story where Chicken Little tried to warn the farmer. She read, "... and so Chicken Little went up to the farmer and said, 'The sky is falling, the sky is falling!'"

The teacher paused then asked the class, "And what do you think that farmer said?"

One little girl raised her hand and said, "I think he said: 'Holy Cow! A talking chicken!'"

It took the teacher 10 minutes to restore order to the classroom.

CONCLUSION: Criminal Negligence – The Manx

In the Isle of Man, as I was one day walking on the seashore, I remember contemplating, with thrilling interest, an old grey ruined tower covered with ivy. There was a remarkable history connected with the spot. In that tower, was formerly hanged, one of the best governors the island ever possessed. He had been accused of treachery to the king during the time of the Civil Wars, and received sentence of death. Intercession was made on his behalf, and a pardon was sent, but that pardon fell into the hands of his bitter enemy, who kept it locked up, and the governor was hanged.

His name is still honored by the Manx; and you may often hear a pathetic ballad sung to his memory, to the music of the spinning wheel. We must all feel horror-struck at the fearful turpitude of that man who, having the pardon of his fellow creature in his possession, could keep it back and let him die the death of a traitor.

But let us restrain our indignation till we ask ourselves whether God might not point His finger to most of us and say: "Thou art the man! Thou hast a pardon in thine hands to save thy fellow creatures, not from temporal, but from eternal death. Thou hast a pardon suited to all, sent to all, designed for all. Thou hast enjoyed it thyself, but hast thou not kept it back from thy brother, instead of sending it to the ends of the earth?" --Hugh Stowell

PARDON: Pardon, Through Christ: Reuben Johnson's Pardon

When I was in Ohio a few years ago, I was invited to preach in the State prison. Eleven hundred convicts were brought into the chapel and all sat in front of me. After I got through the preaching, the chaplain said to me: "Mr. Moody, I want to tell you of a scene which occurred in this room. A few years ago, our commissioners went to the Governor of the State and got him to promise that he would pardon five men for good behavior. The Governor consented with this, understanding that the record was to be kept secret and that at the end of six months the five men highest on the roll should receive a pardon, regardless of who or what they were.

At the end of six months, the prisoners were all brought into the chapel. The commissioners came, the president stood on the platform, and putting his hand into his pocket brought out some papers and said: "I hold in my hands pardons for five men. The chaplain told me he never witnessed anything on earth like it. Every man was still as death. Many were deadly pale. The suspense was awful; it seemed as if every heart had ceased to beat. The commissioner went on to tell them how they had got the pardon, but the chaplain interrupted him: "Before you make that speech, read out the names. This suspense is awful."

So he read out the first name: "Reuben Johnson will come and get his pardon," and he held it out but none came forward. He said to the warden, "Are all the prisoners here?" The warden told him they were all there. Then he said again, "Reuben Johnson will come and get his pardon. It is signed and sealed by the Governor. He is a free man." Not one moved. The chaplain looked right down where Reuben was. He was well known, and he had been nineteen years there. Many were looking around to see the fortunate man who had got his pardon. Finally, the chaplain had caught his eye and said: "Reuben, you are the man."

Reuben turned around and looked behind him to see where Reuben was. The chaplain said the second time, "Reuben, you are the man," and the second time he looked around, thinking it must be some other Reuben. He had to say three times, "Reuben, come and get your pardon." At last, the truth began to steal over the old man. He got up, came along down the hall trembling from head to foot, and when he got the pardon he looked at it and went back to his seat, buried his face in his hands and wept. When the prisoners got into the ranks to go back to the cells, Reuben got into the ranks too, and the chaplain had to call him: "Reuben, get out of the ranks: you are a free man; you are no longer a prisoner." And Reuben stepped out of the ranks. He was free!

That is the way men make out pardons; they make them out for good character or good behavior; but God makes out pardons for men who have not got any character. He offers a pardon to every sinner on earth if he will take it; I do not care who he is or what he is like. He may be the greatest libertine that ever walked the streets, or the greatest blackguard who ever lived, or the greatest drunkard, or thief, or vagabond. Christ commissioned His disciples to preach the gospel to every creature. --D. L. Moody

PREVENTION: Does that mule ever kick you?

At times, the best way to avoid harm and trouble is by making a quick and timely departure: "Does that mule ever kick you?" "No sir," was the reply, "he hasn't yet, but he frequently kicks the place where I recently was." (*Adapted from Reader's Digest 2/41*) --*Duane V. Maxey*

PARDON: Pardon, Through Christ: Abraham Lincoln and the Spy

When I was preaching in the Southern States of America, the minister called my attention to one of the elders. He said: "When the Civil War broke out, that man was in one of the far Southern States, and he enlisted in the Southern Army. He was selected by the General and sent to spy the Northern Army. As you know, armies have no mercy on spies if they are caught. This man was caught, tried by court-martial, and ordered to be shot. While he was in the guardroom awaiting the day of execution, he would call Abraham Lincoln by every name that he could think of.

"One day while he was in prison, a Northern officer came into his cell. The prisoner, full of rage, thought his time was come to be shot. The officer, when he opened the door, handed him a free pardon, signed by Abraham Lincoln. He told him he was at liberty; he could go to his wife and children.

"The man who had before been full of hatred asked, 'Abraham Lincoln pardoned me? I have never said a good word about him.'

"The officer replied: 'If you got what you deserved, you would be shot. But some one interceded for you at Washington, and obtained your pardon. You are now at liberty.'"

— *Christian Endeavor World*

1 Tim. 1.13: *Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.*

! Tim. 1.16: *But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.*

POWER:

Rom. 6.11-13: *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.*

Rom. 8.11,13: *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you... For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live*

1C10.13: *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*