

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository
Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

101- Beseech the Lord of the Harvest to Send out
Workers into His Harvest- Part 1

Church June 16, 2024

Matthew 9:33-38

33 After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

34 But the Pharisees were saying, "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."

35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

36 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

38 "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Now verse 38 marks a "*transition Point*" in the Apostle Matthew's Vision for this Gospel Record. We need to remember that Matthew has plodded along in this Record very *systematically*. And his main Objective so far has been to prove conclusively to his Jewish brethren that Jesus was:

- God Almighty in human Flesh
- The long-awaited Messiah
- Immanuel (God with us)

... and so, Matthew has been very careful to include all of the important Aspects that would convince the Jews of Jesus' Kingship Authority over all things in this Life.

And so, back in Chapter 1- he gave us the Genealogy of Jesus from his foster-father Joseph's side. Matthew traces Jesus' genealogy from Abraham, the Father of the Jewish Nation, through David, the King of Judah to whom God made the Davidic Covenant. This shows Jesus in the Line of Abraham and David. Yet Matthew does NOT say (nor did he believe) that Jesus was the actual "son" of Joseph- only that he is in the "Messianic Line"- *through* Joseph.

So, by *implication*, Matthew demonstrated that Jesus was the "legal son" of Joseph by Adoption. In **Matthew 1:16** we read:

Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

Now I don't want to get too technical here- but the word that Matthew used here that was translated into English as "**whom**" (**by whom Jesus was born**) is *feminine* and refers ONLY to Mary- NOT Joseph!

And that is why, when Dr. Luke gave us the Genealogy of Jesus through Mary's side- he wrote this in **Luke 3:23**:

When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli,

Then the Apostle showed his Jewish readers (and us) the details surrounding the Virgin Birth; the Worship of the Maji; the Fulfillment of all those Old Testament Prophecies; and then came the "Announcer of the King"- John the Baptist, who saw the Spirit descend on Jesus and remain and who prophesied the End of the Reign of the Pharisees when told those unsaved Jewish rulers,

... You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore, bear fruit in keeping with repentance; and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear

good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. (Matthew 3:7b-12)

Next Matthew showed them the Divine Approval of the King, in Jesus' Baptism when God the Father said,

This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased. (Matthew 3:17b)

Then Matthew illustrated the *unique* Temptation that Jesus endured as the Apostle told his readers,

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4:1)

Then Matthew related the Way that Jesus acted as the "2nd Moses" as He taught in Chapters 5-7 in a Way that was *unique* to Him and that was illustrated by what the people said in **Matthew 7:28&29:**

**28 When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching;
29 for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.**

And now, most recently, we have been going on the irrefutable Proof that Jesus was God in human Flesh by the abundance of the Miracles and Healings and the casting out of demons and the Fact that Jesus demonstrated that He had complete Authority over Death itself.

And, Lord willing, we will see in Chapter 10 how Jesus multiplies Himself by choosing the 12 Apostles from among the large crowd of "Mathetes" or "Learners"; or "Students" who were in the large crowd that followed Him.

But in- between the Divine Affirmation and all the Miracles and the Section on the Apostles- we find this very small Transition taking us out of Jesus' Ministry of Teaching and Miracles and into His Ministry of Discipling the Apostles.

And it is here- in these few verses at the End of Chapter 9- that

Jesus recognizes the *Enormity* of the Task His Father has given Him. And it is here that Jesus realizes that He is going to have to have some Help to do all that God has commanded. And that's why in Chapter 10, we begin an entire Section on the Ministry of Discipleship of men that Jesus has personally chosen. So, I want to look carefully and deeply at these six verses so we can see the Transition and appreciate it.

I want to try to call your Attention to five things as we look at these six verses:

1. The Amazement of the People (v. 33)
2. The Rejection of the Leaders (v. 34)
3. The Ministry of Jesus (v. 35)
4. That which Motivated Jesus's Ministry (vs. 36b & 37a)
5. The *Method* by which Jesus carried out His Ministry (vs. 37b-4:1)

... so, let's look at all five of these together.

1. The Amazement of the People

Matthew 9:33

After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

Now, on the surface, this looks wonderful. The people, who saw Jesus heal; and those who saw the Miracles; who witnessed Jesus cast out demons; and who saw Jesus raise the Dead- were amazed! Now the word "amazed" comes from a Greek word (*thaumasomai*; Strong's #2296), that means: *to wonder; to be struck with admiration or astonishment*.

Now granted, for people to be amazed at Jesus is much *better* than them NOT being amazed. And if a person doesn't know the Scriptures very well- he might come to the Conclusion that those people being amazed is "first cousin" to those people believing on Jesus and being saved. But it isn't.

The Reality is that the fallen Condition of every Man, Woman, and Child on this earth is so *pervasive*; so *all-encompassing*; so *great* that, without a sovereign Act of God to open the eyes; unstop the ears; and to take out the hard, stony heart and give them a heart of Flesh- NOBODY would believe; and NOBODY would be saved! In other words,

the “spiritual Deadness” of the Nature of everyone born of Woman is so powerful that, unless the soul is born again- they will NOT love Jesus; they will NOT be convicted; they will NOT repent; and they will NOT be saved!

And so, I say, contrary to what is commonly taught- Miracles do NOT save anyone. Physical Healings do NOT save anyone. The casting out of demons does NOT save anyone. And the raising of dead people does NOT save anyone! So, neither prophetic Utterances nor people supposedly “flowing in the spiritual Gifts” have the Ability to penetrate the fallen Nature of a single Soul! And that means that being amazed at Jesus, while somewhat better than NOT being amazed- is simply NOT enough!

So, what DOES have the Power and Ability to save the sinful souls of human beings? Look what God the Holy Spirit moved on the Apostle Paul to write down in **1Corinthians 1:21-31**:

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,

29 so that no man may boast before God.

30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

31 so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

Now God didn't *have* to choose this one, single Method. But He *did*. And God *could have* chosen to have five or six different Methods to save the Lost- including Miracles and Healings and Signs and Wonders and Gifts of the Spirit. But He *didn't*. And the indisputable Fact that God chose one, single Method to save lost people- means that preaching the Gospel; heralding this glorious Truth- should ALWAYS take Priority over everything else.

And that is why it is so distressing to hear so many people (usually musicians) *emphasize* the casting out of demons and promoting long, extended times of Music- to the detriment of the preaching of God's Word. This is a Phenomenon that has been introduced in my Lifetime and one that is growing in application all across this Nation. But it is NOT a Sign that we are growing in Grace. It is a Sign that many people are simply bored with the Bible; and have a Need to be entertained in Church rather be edified!

But the Desire to be entertained in Church instead of being confronted and encouraged by the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of the living God is *exactly* what the Apostle was talking about when he infallibly wrote this in **2Timothy 4:3&4:**

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,
4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.**

Now look carefully at what the Apostle wrote here as he was "moved" by God the Holy Spirit. Paul said,

... the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine ...

Now the "**they**" here is NOT the lost world. The lost World has NEVER had an appetite for the Bible. No, the "**they**" here is attached to the people of the visible Church. And the Apostle said the people of the visible Church (those who say they are saved) will NOT endure something. Now the word, "**endure**" comes from a Greek word (*anecho*; Strong's # 430), which has to do with: *receiving something; listen to; or Persisting in something.*

So, what is it that the people of the Church *cannot* "**endure**"?

Sound Doctrine! Which is ALL that is found in the Bible. The entirety of the 66 Books of the Holy Bible is “Sound Doctrine”. There is NOTHING in the Bible that is “Unsound”; and EVERYTHING in the Bible is “Doctrine”.

So, this is saying that, due to a number of Circumstances, there will be a Time (probably a Time that is *repeatable* down through History) when the people of the visible Church, who *say* they are saved; and who *say* they love Jesus- will be so sinful; so worldly; so compromising; so weak; so willing to do ANYTHING except study and learn what God has infallibly said in Scripture- that they will no longer be able to endure what the Bible teaches!

Now that would be bad enough in and of itself. But this gets *worse- much* worse. Next- precisely because they are so weak and worldly that the Bible bores them and they are not able to even endure sound, biblical Truth- that they will...

... want[ing] to have their ears tickled ...

So, this is all completely *voluntary*! After they reach the point of no longer being able (or willing) to endure Sound Doctrine- the weak, vacillating, compromising, worldly and sinful people of the visible Church will then WANT; they will DESIRE; they will CRAVE to have their ears tickled.

Now the phrase, “tickling the ears” has to do with an ancient Reality in the Greek-speaking world where people get what they WANT and NOT what they NEED.

And the Apostle said they will WANT this so badly that they will...

... accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires...

So, because they *refuse* to endure Sound Doctrine; and because they WANT and DESIRE to have their ears tickled- they will go about to make sure that whoever is teaching them will NEVER depart from this sinful Desire. So, instead of having godly men of God proclaim the Word of God- in all its Fullness- these people will voluntarily accumulate for themselves Teachers- who will give them ONLY what they Desire!

So, in this Situation- they will NEVER be taught ANYTHING different from what will *encourage* and *strengthen* their sinful Desires to be fed ONLY what will tickle their ears.

Now the ancient Greeks called this- ENTERTAINMENT! Giving people what they *want*- giving them light, unserious words that are designed to NEVER upset them- is to entertain them. It isn't genuine Teaching; it isn't Preaching; there is NEVER anything taught that will bring about Conviction; there is NEVER any Expectation for them to change; there is NEVER any Commandment to alter the Way they live their Lives- ALL they have now- is people giving them what they want! So, they know that this so-called Teacher is lying to them- because he is *purposefully* refusing to say or do ANYTHING that would make them uncomfortable at all. But this is not only Wrong- it is Deadly!

If your doctor ONLY told you things that would make you happy- he would NEVER tell you about the Cancer that needs to be removed from your body. And so, you would continue on- thinking all is well- when in Reality- you're going to die- unless somebody tells you the truth.

But now comes the most terrifying part of this. Look at verse 4:

and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths

Now this is what is called, "*Cause and Effect Judgment*". And the Way to understand this verse is by reading it like this:

and [they] will [purposefully] turn away their ears from the truth and [God] will turn [them] aside to myths

These people who do NOT WANT Sound Doctrine; these people who WANT to have their ears tickled; will accumulate Teachers who will ONLY tell them what they WANT. And the Result of this- is that over time- these people will PURPOSEFULLY turn away their ears from the Truth. This is something that these people do to themselves- PURPOSEFULLY!

And that would be bad enough! But when they do this- God begins to judge them. And so, the Result of these people loving ENTERTAINMENT rather than Divine Truth- is that GOD HIMSELF will *sovereignly* turn these people aside to Myths! Now this is the

SAME thing as what this Apostle wrote in **Romans 1**- where three times, he wrote that God sovereignly...

“gave them over”

... in other words, God will judge those who persist in wanting Sin and NOT wanting Him- by *abandoning* them. Now *why* would God do this?

For [because] they exchanged the truth of God for a lie... (Romans 1:25a)

... and this is the SAME thing as what Paul wrote in **2Thessalonians 2:11&12:**

**11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,
12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.**

So, these things illustrate the Reality that NOBODY can believe- unless God grants to them- the Gift of Faith. So, our Ability (and Desire) to believe and trust in Jesus- is *totally* dependent on God- who gives that Gift. And that is why, when people *persist* in voluntarily turning away from the Truth- God is able to judge them by sending them a “deluding Influence”- so they WILL believe what is false!

And this is the frightening Reality with people who were amazed at what Jesus did- but who have NEVER experienced the Miracle of the New Birth; and who do NOT love Him enough to obey Him; or who do NOT LOVE the Truth!

So, the sad Reality is that a number of those people, who were amazed at the mighty Acts that Jesus performed here in **Matthew 9**, were the very SAME people who called for Barabas to be released to them and for Jesus to be murdered later on!

2. The Rejection of the Leaders

Matthew 9:34

But the Pharisees were saying, "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."

Now this is an Example of what Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit looks like- but probably NOT in the Way you might think. Jesus said this in **Matthew 12:31&32:**

31 "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.

32 Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

Now this Passage is used by many false Teachers - to scare people into *agreeing* with *whatever* they teach. They hold this frightening Judgment over their heads as a Means of *forcing* people to accept whatever they teach.

Now please allow me to be the first one to say- whoever does that- is Evil! Whoever uses this Passage as a Tool to FORCE people to agree with *whatever* they teach- is an example of a very Evil person- who should be categorically rejected!

We need to understand, dear friends, that whoever teaches God's Word has the Obligation and the Burden to teach it correctly. NOBODY has the Right to twist the Scriptures and lead people astray. Therefore, whoever does NOT teach God's Word correctly should NOT be listened to; he should NOT be followed; and he should NOT be obeyed! And he shouldn't be feared either.

God's Word *commands* us to exercise Discernment. So, we are NOT to be FORCED or COERCED; or THREATENED with HAVING to believe whatever anyone teaches. Even God Himself said,

"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, (Isaiah 1:18a)

... so, God does NOT want; and the Bible does NOT teach that we are to have "Blind Faith". The ONLY one who wants people to have "Blind Faith" is the devil. Blind Faith is believing something simply because the Leaders says so. But Christianity is NOT about Blind Faith. Never has been and never will be. God wants every soul to know 2 things:

1. *What* you believe
2. *Why* you believe it

... and both of those two things are accomplished by being *systematically* taught the 66 Books of the Holy Bible.

No human on earth- not the pope; not some Pastor; not you and not me has the Authority to threaten people with Damnation unless they agree with whatever we teach. If what someone teaches is NOT biblical- then it SHOULD be rejected- no matter who taught it!

Now, first of all, EVERY single human on earth has blasphemed God at some point in their Lives. That's what Disbelief is- a rejection- a "speaking against" God and what God has said. That's what Sin is- a *refusal* to accept God and what God has said. So, Blasphemy is a whole lot MORE common than people would like to admit. ALL Sinners blaspheme God.

Yet Jesus said that Blasphemy against either God the Father or God the Son could be forgiven. Yet, whoever "speaks against" or blasphemes God the Holy Spirit can NEVER be forgiven! And it is the Fear that this verse generates that causes much of the Misunderstanding.

Now we go over this every Lord's Day when we recite the ancient Creeds of the Church. So, first of all- God is Triune. So, the one, single God – is eternally manifested in three distinct PERSONS of God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit. And the three Persons of the ONE Godhead CANNOT be separated! They are three IN one!

But that means that Blasphemy against one Person of the Trinity is Blasphemy against the other two! Now it is hard to even imagine the Love that exists between the three Persons of the Trinity. The one single God exists in perfect Harmony; perfect Love; perfect Fellowship; and perfect Peace within all three Persons!

But God the Father does NOT love God the Holy Spirit MORE than He loves God the Son. And God the Son does NOT love God the Holy Spirit MORE than He loves God the Father. And God the Holy Spirit does NOT love Himself MORE than He loves God the Father and God the Son.

But we must also say that God the Holy Spirit is NOT more important or more sacred or more necessary than the other two Persons. We NEED all three Persons; and it takes ALL three Persons to save us. So, why did Jesus say this? Why are people able to be forgiven for Blasphemy against two Persons- but CANNOT be forgiven for Blasphemy against the one?

Here is what Jesus meant by what He said. First of all, Jesus was talking directly to the Pharisees. In **Matthew 12**- the Pharisees had just witnessed Jesus casting out a demon (v.22). And in verse 23- it says,

All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?"

Now this really upset those religious frauds, and they responded to the crowd by saying,

Matthew 12:21

This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.

... and in response to their Blasphemy, Jesus said this:

25 ... "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand.

26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand?

27 If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason they will be your judges.

28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

29 Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

30 "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

31 "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.

32 Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come. (Matthew 12:25-32)

... so, the Context here is that Jesus was speaking *specifically* to the Pharisees.

But each Person of the Trinity plays a *specific* Role in our Salvation. God the Father designed Salvation so that He alone will be glorified. God the Son took on Flesh; lived a sinless Life; died and rose

again- so He could wash away all Sin and make the Believer Righteous. But it is the Duty; or the Job; or the Responsibility of God the Holy Spirit to DRAW or to DRAG those who have been chosen by God the Father for Salvation- to Jesus and then fill, empower, and equip the Believer to “walk this World in White”.

So, the ONLY reason that lost, dirty, filthy, and rebellious Sinners come to Jesus for both Forgiveness and Righteousness- in the first place- is because God the Holy Spirit forcefully and sovereignly and effectually DREW them to Jesus. And without the Holy Spirit drawing a lost Sinner to Jesus- they would NEVER come!

And that sovereign DRAWING or DRAGGING by God the Holy Spirit is *orchestrated* and *controlled* by God the Father. God the Holy Spirit ONLY draws the ones that God the Father has chosen. He does NOT draw the rest. He leaves them alone and allows them to keep on sinning.

Now even though it is God the Holy Spirit who does the DRAWING (dragging)- it is carried out under the auspices of God the Father. And that is why Jesus said this in **John 6:44**:

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

Jesus said here that no human being has the Power or the Ability (can) to come to Jesus on their own. So, no one comes to Jesus as the Result of “making a Decision” to do so or of simply “choosing to come”!

But why can't people simply choose to come to Jesus when they want to? Because they are “Fallen”; and they will NEVER “want to come”- unless they are chosen by God for Salvation (from before the Foundation of the world). But even then- if they ARE chosen- they still CAN'T come on their own! Why? They lost both the Will (Desire) and the Power (Ability) to come to Jesus on their own. And anyone who teaches differently than this- is NOT teaching the Bible correctly!

So, how do these chosen people “come”? God the Holy Spirit- under the Direction of God the Father- goes all through the earth- seeking those chosen by God for Salvation. And He effectively “Draws” “Drags” or even “Calls” those lost Sinners to Jesus! And those are the ONLY ones who come to Jesus! The rest remain as they are. Look what Jesus said in **John 6: 37**:

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

So, when the Pharisees categorically rejected Jesus- they ran into a Problem. The people all knew that Jesus was “FROM” God. And they knew that- based on all that Jesus said and did while He was here. Now you should take note that the Pharisees NEVER said that Jesus didn’t perform all those Miracles. They *couldn’t* say that- because almost everything Jesus did- was in public- in broad daylight- in front of tens of thousands of people! So, the Pharisees simply *couldn’t* say it was all a lie.

But if Jesus did all that He did by the Power of God- why didn’t the Pharisees follow Him? So, they were really in a pickle. So, they decided to blaspheme God by saying that, “*Yes, Jesus DID perform all those Miracles.*” But they said the ONLY reason He could do all that He did- was because He was of the devil Himself! So, they went out of their Way to blaspheme Him!

But now think about this. There is ONLY one God. And the Pharisees were more than willing to agree with that. They believed and taught that there was ONLY one God. But now that Jesus has come- there is ONLY one Way to reach this one God- and that is through God the Son, Jesus Christ! And the ONLY way sinners can come to Jesus- so they can go to the Father- is through God the Holy Spirit drawing them!

So, in the New Covenant- the full Truth about the Godhead was made known. But once that happened- once Jesus came- the Jews could NEVER keep what they had! Because what God gave them through Moses was ONLY in effect- UNTIL Jesus came or until the New Covenant was in place! So, once Jesus came- they HAD to ABANDON what they had- and fully embrace Jesus!

We must understand that what God had given to Moses was ONLY temporary until Immanuel came- until the Messiah came! It is the Messiah who is Permanent! It is the Holy Spirit and God the Father Who are permanent! The Old Covenant; as well as physical Circumcision; and the Levitical Priesthood; and the Sanhedrin Court; and the Temple in Jerusalem; and the Dietary and Ceremonial aspects of the Law; and Animal Sacrifices were NEVER meant to be Permanent. They were ALWAYS meant to be temporary! They were Signs and Types and Symbols of the Real and the True and the Eternal!

But once you have the Real and the True and the Eternal- it is WRONG- in fact it is Sin- to hold on to the Symbols! So, when the Pharisees blasphemed against Jesus- they were also blaspheming against both God the Father and God the Holy Spirit as well. So, by blaspheming against Jesus- they were proving that they didn't know or have the other two Persons! But what's even *worse*- is they were cutting themselves off from the ONLY One- who could forgive their Sins and save them!

So, you can't un-ring the Bell. God had chosen to move at the appointed Time that pleased Him. And God took on Flesh and became Man. And that God/Man lived a perfectly sinless Life for 33-1/2 years- precisely because Jesus obeyed ALL of the Tenets of the Law of God- *perfectly*! And with that perfect Obedience- Jesus earned *perfect* Righteousness- which is what the Law promised! And by obeying the Law of God- perfectly- Jesus FULFILLED the Law!

So, it was NOT that Jesus was against the Law or that He *destroyed* the Law. No, Jesus FULFILLED the Law! And He fulfilled it by obeying it- perfectly! But once Jesus fulfilled the Law through His perfect Obedience- we no longer NEED to try to obey the LAW ourselves- so we can earn Heaven! No! Now we NEED Jesus! And we NEED to look to Him and trust in Him and hope in Him- as the "FULFILLER" of the Law.

But now that Jesus has fulfilled the Law- for us to try to go about trying to fulfill the Law ourselves- is us saying that what Jesus did wasn't enough! It is testifying that what Jesus did- is meaningless to us! And that is Blasphemy! And by holding on to the Signs and Symbols- even after Jesus came and fulfilled the Law- is tantamount to rejecting what Jesus did. And that Rejection is Blasphemy!

And by the Pharisees rejecting the Miracles and the Healings and the casting out of demons and the raising of the Dead by saying that it was done by satan- is also Blasphemy!

So, that's how the Pharisees blasphemed the Holy Spirit. But even today, there is widespread Blasphemy going on all the Time- but in the opposite Way. When wayward people attribute to the Holy Spirit Words that He didn't say; Deeds that He didn't do; and Experiences that He didn't produce- that is Blasphemy. Attributing to the Holy Spirit that which is NOT the Work of the Holy Spirit. Endless human Experiences, emotional Experiences, bizarre Experiences, and even

demonic Experiences are said to come from the Holy Spirit. Visions, Revelations, Voices from Heaven, Messages from the Spirit through dreams, speaking in tongues, prophecies, out-of-body Experiences, trips to Heaven, special Anointings- all false, all lies, and all Deceptions- attributed falsely to the Holy Spirit. That is Blasphemy!

And the irony of all ironies is that the Movement that is supposedly MORE about the Holy Spirit than any other Movement is the one that uses and studies and understands the Bible the *least*. It is the Movement that is characterized by MORE unbiblical and extra-biblical Aspects than any other. This the Holy Spirit would NEVR do- because He is the Author of Scripture!

So, in context- Jesus was talking about what the Pharisees were doing by assigning what He was doing- the mighty Acts He did- to satan. And I think that this was *unique* to those men. Now, sadly, I DO think some people blaspheme the Holy Spirit today- but mostly, that is done- NOT in the same Way as the Pharisees did.

What those men did- was over and above normal Sin. And it reflected a determined Rejection of Jesus as the Messiah against every Evidence and every Argument. It was done as they personally saw Truth Incarnate and then they *knowingly* rejected Him and then went about to have Him murdered! And that demonstrated an absolute and permanent Refusal to believe- which resulted in the Loss of any Opportunity to be forgiven- either in this Age, or in the Age to come.

So, throughout this Age (all of human History), when anyone rejects Jesus and the Acts of Jesus that were empowered by the Holy Spirit- the Way the Pharisees did- that Blasphemy is unforgivable. And the phrase, the "Age to come" implies that through all of Eternity there will be no Forgiveness for those people. So, neither in the Age of human History nor in the Age of Divine Consummation- they will find NO Forgiveness!

But the Reason you can't ever be forgiven for this- is because when you reject Jesus as being the ONLY one who CAN forgive Sin- when you reject the obvious Working of the Holy Spirit through Jesus through all the Miracles and Healings- you are cutting yourself off from your ONLY Hope!

So, the Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is NOT a certain group of words that people might say. It also isn't how angry a person may be when they say those words. And it has NOTHING to do with people

exercising Discernment and rejecting a false Teacher. ALL Blasphemy is the SAME! It is ALL Sin; and it is ALL horrible! But God the Holy Spirit is NOT more sacred or MORE important than God the Father or God the Son. That just isn't true.

The Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is when the Pharisees assigned Jesus' Ability to Heal and perform Miracles and cast out demons and raise the Dead to satan rather than God the Holy Spirit.

And the ONLY reason this Sin can't be forgiven- is because by assigning the Acts of God the Spirit to satan- you just cut yourself off from the ONLY one- who can sovereignly draw you to Jesus for Forgiveness!

Because there isn't any other Way to be saved. You are either drawn to Jesus by God the Holy Spirit or you remain in your Sins. And you either come to Jesus for both Forgiveness and Righteousness or you remain in your Sins. And whoever tries to come up some other Way- even the Way that God gave to Moses- is both a Thief and a Robber (**John 10:1**)!

The Miracles and Signs and Wonders and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the casting out of demons and the raising of the Dead- were all done publicly and repeatedly- to give unmistakable Proof that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah and the true and eternal King of Israel!

And this King is bringing in an infinitely *better* Kingdom that will NEVER be destroyed! And this Kingdom will NOT be inhabited by the ones who think they have earned a place and deserve to be there. It will ONLY be inhabited by those who understand that that the ONLY worthy One in the entire Kingdom- is the King Himself!

And God has given these chosen unworthy rebels a new tongue where instead of blaspheming God in all three Persons- he now worships and sings Praises to the God he once spoke against!

And God has so radically changed each one of these chosen Sinners- so that now- in, by, and through what God has done for them (at great Cost to Himself- the Death of His Son) these elected ones obtain the Fullness of their *own* Joy- in God alone being glorified!

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.