Blaspheming the Holy Spirit, Part 1
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I. Introduction.

    A. Text: Matthew 12:22-32.

    B. The unforgiveable sin is to speak against the Holy Spirit.

    C. It is clear that God is forgiving by nature. (Psalm 86:5, 103:3, Daniel 9, Exodus 34:6-7, Micah 7:18-19)

    D. God can forgive no matter how great the sin or the kind of sin. (Luke 43:44, John 16, I Timothy 1)

    E. There is no forgiveness without the condition of repentance, which is an act of faith in Jesus Christ. (John 1:11, Luke 11)

    F. There are five segments in the passage.

II. Activity.

    A. The religious leaders were ambivalent because they did not see the Messiah come in a meek manner. (Matthew 11:48)

    B. They dogged Him looking for a way to trap Jesus.

III. Amazement. The people were amazed wondering whether Jesus could be the Son of David--the Messiah. (II Samuel 7:14, Matthew 8)

IV. Accusation.

    A. The religious leaders said that He could not be Messiah--He had to be working from the power of Satan.

    B. They were poisoning the people, and Jesus knew their intentions.

V. Answer.

    A. Every kingdom divided against itself cannot stand.

        1. If Satan casts out Satan, he cannot stand.

        2. There will be a certain sense in which Satan's kingdom will be chaotic because he is not omniscient. There will be times when Satan deceives in exorcisms too. However, Jesus' statement is still true because generally this cannot happen.

B. The claim that Jesus is of Satan because He casts out demons is prejudiced because the religious leaders exorcised demons too. (Acts 19)

C. The accusers are rebellious.

D. Only Christ can bind Satan. (Revelation 20, Colossians 1:13, Matthew 4, Luke 10)

E. There is no neutrality. Either Jesus is of Satan or of God because one cannot deny supernatural power.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to blaspheme the Spirit?
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2. What is the occasion in which the blasphemy of the Spirit was occurring?
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3. How does Jesus refute the claims of those who denied His Messiahship in this passage? Which of His responses stands out to you?
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