



Daily Reflections

January 23, 2017

Scripture

Mark 3:22-30

The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said of Jesus,
"He is possessed by Beelzebul," and
"By the prince of demons he drives out demons."
Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables,
"How can Satan drive out Satan?
If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.
And if a house is divided against itself,
that house will not be able to stand.
And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided,
he cannot stand;
that is the end of him.
But no one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property
unless he first ties up the strong man.
Then he can plunder his house.
Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies

that people utter will be forgiven them.
But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit
will never have forgiveness,
but is guilty of an everlasting sin."
For they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Our Scripture Reflection

So what is the "Unforgivable Sin? If God can forgive anything, why is there such a thing? The problem is NOT with God, my friends. The problem is with people. Here's Jesus' point:

1. Rejecting God is a sin for sure. God can forgive us for that.
2. Rejecting Jesus is a sin and He can forgive that. However,
3. The Holy Spirit is the final and complete gift of God's

Presence to our world. And if we reject Him, then we have rejected God totally and completely. God respects our freedom of choice and leaves us alone to suffer the consequences of such a total rejection of God.

May we realize what a gift we have in God's love as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and show our gratitude by loving God completely in return.

Food for your Journey

One of the strangest diagnoses of mental illness is Jerusalem Syndrome. It's a form of psychosis affecting tourists who visit the holy city. Certain visitors to Jerusalem, who appear perfectly sane before their trip, suddenly begin to demonstrate religious delusions.

Common features of the disorder are an obsession with personal cleanliness, isolation from family, loudly declaiming Scripture passages in public and a feeling of having been singled out by God for some special service. A few have been known to don white robes made out of bed sheets from their hotel and begin preaching at holy sites within the city.

As serious as the disorder is, it often resolves itself soon after the sufferer has left Jerusalem and returned home.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, May I always love You with my whole heart, mind and soul and show my love by living Your Gospel this day. Amen.