

# The Sin God Won't Forgive

## Luke 12:8-12

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / March 20, 2022

**Luke 12:8-12** “And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges Me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, <sup>9</sup> but the one who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God. <sup>10</sup> And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. <sup>11</sup> And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, <sup>12</sup> for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: **Thanks Be To God!**

### I. You Can't Save Yourself!

- A. The only thing you brought to your salvation is the sin & death from which you needed to be saved.

**Ephesians 2:1-4** “**And you were dead** in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

- B. It was God's mercy, love, and resurrecting power that has given us spiritual life.

**Ephesians 2:4-7** “**But God, being rich in mercy**, because of **the great love with which He loved us**, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>**and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him** in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of **His grace in kindness toward us** in Christ Jesus.”

### II. You Can't “Unsave” Yourself!

- A. Our salvation was a work of God from start to finish.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “For by grace you have been saved through faith. **And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God**, <sup>9</sup>**not a result of works**, so that no one may boast.”

- B. The finish line isn't in this life, but the next...and God will get us there safe & sound.

**Romans 8:30** “And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, **and those whom He justified He also glorified.**”

### III. You Acknowledge Christ Before People by Living in Daily Obedience to Him!

**Luke 12:8-9** “And I tell you, **everyone who acknowledges Me before men**, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, <sup>9</sup> **but the one who denies Me before men** will be denied before the angels of God...”

The Greek word translated “acknowledges” means “to say the same thing” or “to agree.”

- A. We acknowledge Christ when we **deny ourselves** and **submit our entire lives to Jesus** (Luke 9:23,24).
- B. We acknowledge Christ as we’re transformed to become like Him (Rom. 12:2).
- C. We acknowledge Christ by striving to practice righteousness and love for others.

**1 John 3:10** “By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”

### IV. You Need to Know There is a Sin God Can Not Forgive.

**Luke 12:10** “And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, **but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.**”

The Greek word translated “blasphemes” means “to be evil spoken of.”

- A. The specific sin of the Pharisees can’t be duplicated today. Jesus isn’t here to perform a miracle for someone to attribute to Satan (Luke 11:15).
- B. When someone rejects Jesus in their unbelief, they are “blaspheming” against God by rejecting the truth of the Gospel.

**John 15:26** “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, **He will bear witness about Me.**”

- C. Since there is no salvation for the person who dies in their unbelief and unrepentance, their persistent unbelief is an “unpardonable sin.”

**Acts 16:31** “And they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”

**Hebrews 11:6** “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.”

**V. God Promises to Protect, Comfort, Strengthen, Teach, and Empower You to Represent Him Well When You Need it Most!**

**Luke 12:11-12** “And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, <sup>12</sup> **for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.**”

**Luke 21:12-19** “ But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for My name’s sake. <sup>13</sup> **This will be your opportunity to bear witness.**

<sup>14</sup>Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, <sup>15</sup> **for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.** <sup>16</sup>You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all for My name’s sake. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup> **By your endurance you will gain your lives.**”

**Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:**

1. Eph. 2:1 doesn’t say we were spiritually “sick” when we were saved. It says we were spiritually “dead.” What’s the difference between seeing yourself as spiritually sick and spiritually dead?
2. What impact does it have on Christians when we understand we were spiritually “dead” apart from Christ?
3. How does your everyday life “acknowledge Christ” before people?
4. In what sense is it impossible for people today to commit the same “unpardonable sin” as the Pharisees?
5. Do you understand Pastor Peter’s explanation of “the unpardonable sin”?
6. When has God met you with “in-the-moment” grace when you needed it most? How do you feel about Christ’s promise that the Holy Spirit will give you exactly what you need, even & especially in the darkest hour of persecution?