

SLANDERING JESUS and the “Unpardonable Sin”

Matthew 12:24-37; Mark 3:22-30 (Luke 12:10)

Slander is condemned in over 100 verses in Scripture. Slander is a malicious, false, and defamatory statement designed to discredit or destroy a person’s (or business’) character or reputation. It is a wicked sin.

The word “**devil**” actually means *slanderer*. He lives up to his name! Jesus was slandered on numerous occasions.

- He was slandered of being crazy (Mk. 3:21). They thought He was off His rocker. It wouldn’t be any different today if Jesus were here.

This is the world’s opinion about the followers of Christ also. A successful young man who turns his back on his career to answer God’s call to the mission-field is often considered a fool. The preaching of the cross is foolishness to the world. D.L. Moody was so zealous for the Lord, the world called him “Crazy Moody.” The world said Paul was “*mad*” (Acts 26:24). If serving Jesus is madness, then we need more “**sanctified insanity**” at BBC today!

- He was slandered as being “*a man gluttonous, and a winebibber*” (Mt. 11:19).
- He was slandered as a blasphemer (Mk. 14:64; John 5:18).
- He was slandered as spreading sedition (Luke 22:65; 23:5). Actually, Jesus supported the Roman government.
- In our text Jesus is slandered as being in league with Satan and being possessed with an unclean spirit. He was accused of being demon-possessed on two other occasions (John 8:48, 52; 10:20).

This slander is most dangerous because it leads to what is commonly called “the unpardonable sin” (Mt. 12:31-32; Mk. 3:28-30).

➡What the “unpardonable sin” IS NOT:

1. IDOLATRY (Abraham)
2. MURDER (Moses, David)
3. ADULTERY (David)
4. BLASPHEMY (Paul - 1 Tim. 1:13 cf. Mk. 3:28)

5. SUICIDE.

6. HOMOSEXUALITY (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

The truth is, *“the blood of Jesus Christ his Son **cleanses us for ALL sin**”* (1 John 1:7). CF. Mark 3:28

➡ To understand what the “unpardonable sin” is, notice these four things:

I. **The SETTING of the slander** (Mt 12:22-23).

- A. Christ’s **ACTION** (v. 22). Jesus cast out “a devil,” and set a man free from his Satan’s oppression.
1. Jesus was mounting a frontal assault on the kingdom of Satan. 1 John 3:8 says, *“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”* And that is what He was doing each time he cast out devils.
 - He busted devils on at least 10 different occasions. Mark 1:34 says Jesus *“cast out many devils.”*
 2. You can bet that Satan didn’t like it! How would you like it if someone broke into your house and took your children away?
- B. The people’s **AMAZEMENT** (v. 23). The people rightly acknowledge who Jesus is. Satan is not going to sit idly by without mounting opposition to Christ’s popularity.

II. **The SPEAKERS of the slander** (Mt. 12:24).

- A. Their **IDENTITY**. The slander came from unsaved religionists. This is where most of Christ’s opposition came from. They were already plotting how they might get rid of Jesus (v. 14).
- ➡ One of Satan devices is to make his wickedness appear respectable under the disguise of religion (2 Cor. 11:14-15).
- B. Their **INSINUATION**. Instead of rejoicing over the healing of the demon-possessed man, the Pharisees slandered Jesus as being in cahoots with Satan.
- ➡ **“Beelzebub”** (NT cf. Mt 10:25; 12:24-27—Lord of flies / filth [ISBE]) / **“Baal-zebul”** (OT [Strong’s: dung-god]). A name for

Satan—the prince of devils—loathsome and associated with all things dirty and filthy.

III. The **STUPIDITY of the slander** (Mt. 12:25-30).

- A. Their slander was **ILLOGICAL** (vs. 25-26). If Jesus was working with Satan why would He undo the damage Satan caused in the first place? Satan would not be so stupid to oppose himself.
1. **A nation divided** will crumble from within. It will not survive.

It is like a cancer to the body. It is a part of the body, but the cancer cells grow out of control and drain the life of the body. Cancer is the body at odds with itself. It will end in death if not corrected.

 2. That which is true of a kingdom also applies to a marriage, family, or church. Division destroys from within! This was a major problem in the church at Corinth (1 Cor. 1:13; 12:25).
 - This is what is weakening our nation from what made it strong in the beginning. “Divide and conquer.”
- B. Their slander was **INCONSISTENT** (v. 27).
1. The “*children*” of the Pharisees were doing the same thing Jesus was doing. So why would the Pharisees condemn Jesus for casting out devils when they were doing the same thing.
 2. Since Jesus had just shown it is counterproductive for Satan to cast out Satan, He must be casting out devils by the power of God. Therefore, why didn’t the Pharisees give the same respect to Christ they gave to their own children (followers).
- C. Their slander was **INEPT** (v. 29).
- ➡ The ineptness of their slander is illustrated in the parable of spoiling the goods of the strong man.
1. The strong man” is Satan.
 2. Satan’s house is the kingdom he is over on Earth.
 3. His “goods” are the victims whom he holds in bondage.

4. Only someone more powerful than Satan can overcome Satan, bind him, and free those he holds hostage. This is what Jesus did—Entered Satan’s dominion... bound him... and freed his victims.
5. Their accusation only proved Jesus was more powerful than Satan.

IV. The SIN of the slander (Mt. 12:31-32 cf. Mk. 3:28-30).

A. **DISTINCTIVES** of the “unpardonable sin.”

1. A sin that was only committed while Christ was on earth.
2. A sin that was committed by the unsaved.
3. A sin that was spoken. “*Blaspheme*” means “to speak evil of.”

B. **DEFINITION** of the “unpardonable sin.”

1. In what way was the Holy Ghost blasphemed? By SAYING Jesus cast out devils by “*Beelzebub, the prince of devils,*” when in reality Jesus cast out devils by the power of the Holy Ghost (Luke 4:1, 14; Acts 2:22; 10:38).