Every year at this time we preachers struggle with whether or not to preach a Mother's Day sermon. For many years I felt like I had to preach a Mother's Day sermon because that is what I thought every mother wanted to hear. But through the years I have learned that Mother's Day is a very difficult day for many women; a day that often brings more sadness than gladness.

I have also learned that many mothers would just as soon hear a good gospel message on Mother’s Day as they would a Mother’s Day sermon. So on behalf of all of us here this morning we want to wish all you Mothers, and Grandmothers, and Great-Grand Mothers, and Mothers-to-Be a Happy Mother’s Day.

We love you! We appreciate you! And we thank you for all the many ways you have blessed our lives! And we pray that God will richly bless each and everyone of you, not only today, but in all the days of your life.

Today we are going to continue with our series of messages from Mark's Gospel, so if you would, please open your Bibles once again to Mark chapter three. And let’s read verses 20-30.

**Mark 3:20-30 (NKJV)**

20 Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.  
21 But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, “He is out of His mind.”  
22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebub,” and, “By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.”
23 So He called them to Himself and said to them in parables: “How can Satan cast out
Satan?
24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.
25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.
26 And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an
end.
27 No one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds
the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.
28 “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever
blasphemies they may utter;
29 but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject
to eternal condemnation”—
30 because they said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

INTRODUCTION

In today’s message we are looking at one of the most troubling passages in all the Bible. Matthew also wrote about it in his gospel, and so did Luke.

(Matthew 12:31,32; Luke 12:10)

Throughout the Bible we are told that GOD is a gracious, merciful, forgiving GOD.

I JOHN 1:7 (NKJV) But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from ALL sin.

I JOHN 1:9 (NKJV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness.

ISAIAH 1:18 (NKJV) “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.
PSALM 130:3,4 (NKJV) If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.

GOD will forgive the repentant murderer.
GOD will forgive the repentant drunk and drug addict.
GOD will forgive the repentant adulterer or adulteress.
GOD will forgive the repentant pimp or prostitute.
GOD will forgive the repentant thief, rapist, and child molester.
GOD will forgive the repentant homosexual or lesbian.
GOD will forgive the repentant serial killer and abortion doctor.

But there is one sin…..and one sin only……the Bible tells us GOD will not forgive. It is called in the scriptures: “The Unpardonable Sin” or “The Unforgivable Sin.”

-What is this awful sin?
-Have I committed it?
-Do I know any one who has committed it?
-Is it even possible to commit this sin today?

These are questions that I’m sure all of us have struggled with. Hopefully by the time we conclude today’s message we will all have some answers to these questions.

As we go back and study these verses more carefully there are just two simple thoughts I would like to draw your attention to: The SETTING and The SIN of ALL SINS. (repeat)
First of all, let's look at......

I. The **SETTING** (vs. 20-27)

1. If you remember from last week's message, JESUS had gone off by Himself to a solitary place in the mountains to spend a night in prayer before selecting the twelve men who would be His apostles. After Jesus had chosen the twelve, *verse 19* simply says, “And they went into a house.”

   Mark doesn't give us any specifics regarding where this house was located; nor do Matthew or Luke. More than likely this is referring to “the house” where Jesus stayed in Capernaum; namely, Peter's house. The house where the paralyzed man was lowered through the roof. *(Mark 1:29; Mark 2:1-12)*

Remember Capernaum was where Jesus had established His ministry headquarters. *Mark 2:1 (NIV) A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home.*

So in all likelihood, Jesus has taken His twelve, newly chosen apostles back to the home where He stayed in Capernaum; Peter's house.
2. Well it wasn’t long before the great multitude heard that Jesus was back in town and they showed up at the house to see Jesus. It is interesting that Mark doesn’t mention an important detail that both Matthew and Luke record in their gospels. And that is that Jesus performed a miracle that day. He drove the demon from the BLIND and MUTE man. (Matthew 12:22,23; Luke 11:14)

3. This miracle incited a critical attack from two different sources; one likely, the other very unlikely.

(A) The Attack From Jesus' Own FAMILY. (v.21)

21 But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, “He is out of His mind.”

When Mark says, “But when His own people heard about this.....” he is referring to Jesus' own family back in Nazareth; which was just a short distance from Capernaum.

Jesus had four brothers and an unspecified number of sisters. Mark 6:3 (NKJV) Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” So they were offended at Him.

These siblings grew up in the same home as Jesus during those 30 “silent years” before Jesus began His ministry. Jesus didn’t perform any miracles during those years. He didn’t do any preaching or teaching.
However Jesus was sinless and perfect, which certainly His brothers and sisters would have noticed. Did it ever ever occur to them that Jesus never got a spanking for disobeying His parents? Did they ever notice that He never said or did anything wrong? When they were fussing and fighting with each other, as all brothers and sisters do, did they ever wonder why Jesus always stayed out of the fray?

You see, they didn’t understand Jesus! Though they all grew up in the same house together, they just didn’t comprehend how uniquely different Jesus was. Out of all the multitudes of people who had been following Jesus, His own family hadn't been following Him. He had been performing all kinds of miracles, but they hadn't seen any of them. He had been preaching and teaching in synagogues throughout Galilee and Judea, and yet the scriptures never give us any clue that any of His brothers or sisters were ever present to hear Him.

So when His family got word that Jesus had driven demons out of a blind and mute man, they traveled twenty miles to confront their brother. They believed Jesus was “out of His mind,” that “He's insane.” “He's an embarrassment to our family.” And their intent was to “lay hold of Jesus” and take Him back to Nazareth.
Now the source of the second attack should come as no surprise, in fact we have come to expect it.

**(B) The Attack From The SCRIBES (v.22)**

22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebub,” and, “By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.”

The “scribes” are members of the Pharisee religious sect. These corrupt, self-righteous religious leaders have been watching Jesus like a hawk, looking for some way to trap Him doing something unlawful. Remember they have been plotting with the Herodians to kill Jesus. *(Mark 3:6)*

Now listen very closely to the charge they made against Jesus, “He has Beelzebub.” Remember Jesus’ family has just charged Him with being “insane.” The scribes have taken it to a whole different level, “He has Beelzebub”.........”He has the devil in Him!” “By the ruler of demons, (that's Satan) He casts out demons.”

The scribes and Pharisees cannot deny that something miraculous has been occurring throughout Galilee and Judea. They cannot deny that demons are being driven out of people, because the fact that formerly possessed people are now back to normal is living proof that the demons are gone from these people.
As Israel’s “religious leaders” they had to explain to the Jewish people how Jesus got this “supernatural power.” It was either the power of God or the power of Satan. Those were the only two sources of supernatural power. The multitudes that were following Jesus believed He healed the sick and diseased and cast out demons by the power of God. And Jesus was gaining more popularity and getting more followers with every passing day. The scribes and Pharisees knew they had to put a stop to this! They knew they had to create doubt and suspicion in the minds of the people...........not just to turn them “away” from Jesus, but to turn them “against” Jesus.

So in the hearing of all the people, the scribes and Pharisees accused Jesus of being possessed by Satan himself, and driving out demons by the power of Satan.

**JESUS’ RESPONSE**

In verses 23-26 we see Jesus' response to their charges.

**First of all Jesus exposes the absurdity of their claim.** Remember Jesus always came back at the scribes and Pharisees with a question: Verse 23 Jesus asked them, “How can Satan cast out Satan?” In essence, Jesus is saying, “SERIOUSLY!” Or “Are you kidding me? “If I get my power from Satan, why would I want to throw myself out?”
“If I am working for Satan, my goal is to destroy God's work, not my own work.” “I want my demons to possess people......to control people......to ruin people's lives and to claim their souls; so why would I be casting demons out of people? And then Jesus makes the point that If He is indeed doing what the scribes and Pharisees are accusing Him of doing, He is dividing Satan's kingdom, and no kingdom divided against itself can stand; and Satan himself will come to an end........and if this happens the world will be a lot better off! Do you see what Jesus has done? He has taken their charge against Him in direction they never intended! He has turned their logic inside out and upside down and backed them into a corner.

And then Jesus puts an exclamation mark on His rebuttal.

27 No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.

What is Jesus talking about here? He is talking about Satan. Satan is “the strong man.” “His goods” refers to people whom Satan had possessed. What Jesus is saying is that “I have the power to overthrow the strong man, overthrow Satan.” “I can enter into his house, his kingdom, and deliver whomever I want to deliver from Satan's power.”
So this is **THE SETTING**. Jesus has delivered yet another person from demon possession. When word of this miracle gets back to His family in Nazareth they come to Capernaum to get Him and take Him home because they think He's insane. But when word reached the scribes and Pharisees, they traveled all the way from Jerusalem to Capernaum to launch a vicious attack against Jesus by accusing Him of being possessed by the devil and casting out demons in the name of the devil.

This charge has now brought the scribes and Pharisees to the very brink of the “sin of all sins!” The sin the Bible calls, “the Unpardonable Sin.”

Let's look at what Jesus says about this sin......

### II. The **SIN** of **ALL SINS** (vs. 28-30)

28 “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter;

29 but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation”—

30 because they said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

1. First of all Jesus makes a **wonderful statement**!

28 “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter;

Jesus is saying that **all sins and all blasphemies can be forgiven**! Think of the worst sin you ever committed.......think of the worst thing you ever did in your life.......think of that one sin that has tripped you up over and over again. No matter how vile or disgusting or repulsive that sin may be, it can be forgiven by bringing that sin under the precious cleansing blood of Jesus Christ!
Now Satan will try defeat you and discourage you by planting thoughts in your mind that your sins are so terrible or your sins are so many that the LORD could never forgive you! **BUT SATAN IS THE FATHER OF ALL LIES AND WHAT HE SAYS IS NOT TRUE!**

Do you want the TRUTH? Listen to what JESUS says.......

28 “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter;

But then Jesus talks about THE SIN OF ALL SINS.......THE SIN THAT CANNOT BE FORGIVEN.......

29 but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation”— 30 because they said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Everything Jesus did in His ministry was by the **power of God's Holy Spirit.**

-He taught by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
-He preached by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
-He healed the sick and diseased by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
-He drove out demons by the power of the Holy Spirit.

When the scribes and Pharisees attributed the work of the Holy Spirit to the devil, they were guilty of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.
Perhaps some of you have worried at some time or another that you have “blasphemed the Holy Spirit.” When you look carefully at the nature of this unpardonable sin as Jesus describes it here, the only way one could possibly blaspheme the Holy Spirit today would be for Jesus to be here on the earth in the flesh doing the same miracles He was doing two thousand years ago, and to accuse Jesus of doing His miracles by the power of the devil. In other words it is impossible to commit this sin today.

*******************************************************************************

CONCLUSION

As we bring this message to a close, I do want to make one final, critical point; and that is this:

While it is impossible to commit blasphemy of the Holy Spirit today, there is a sin that does have eternal consequences, and that is to reject Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. That is what the scribes and Pharisees were doing when they accused Jesus of casting out demons in the name of the devil. They were rejecting Jesus as Lord and Savior. They were denouncing Him as the Son of the living God.

If you are here today and you have rejected Christ, you need to listen very, very carefully to what I am about to say. The longer you reject Jesus as your Lord and Savior, the greater the possibility you will never accept Him. Your heart will only get harder and harder. And if you should leave this world tonight.......tomorrow......ten years from now......or fifty years from now without Christ, there will be no forgiveness for your sins when you leave this world. You will be forever condemned to that awful place of torment called hell, where you will be forever separated from the One who gave His life to save your soul! Today is the day of salvation; now is the accepted time to be saved!