

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why did the good deeds of our Lord come under such bitter attack by the Pharisees?
2. How did Jesus answer them? Give examples of other answers given by Him.
3. What is blasphemy against the Holy Ghost?
4. Why will a word spoken against Christ be forgiven, but a word against the Holy Spirit not forgiven?
5. How could we commit the unpardonable sin?

SUMMARY:

Another great miracle had been performed by our Lord. On this occasion His opponents charged that this was done by the power of Satan, thus blaspheming the Holy Spirit as well as our Lord and our Heavenly Father. He gave them an answer in His wisdom that brought to nothing their charges. He then laid before them the seriousness of their charge because it was through the power of the Spirit that these things had also been done. Let us beware that we **never** fall into this sin. Let us search out in our lesson the ways in which we could fall into such error.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #13

December 30, 2007

Fourth Quarter

SINNING AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON TEXT: *Matthew 12:22-32*

LESSON SETTING: A demoniac is brought to Christ.

TIME: The continuing of Christ's ministry.

- I. A MIGHTY ACT.** Matthew 12:22-23
 - A. Evil Spirits Cast Out (vs. 22) Mark 5:2-8; Luke 8:2
 - B. Blind and Dumb Healed (vs. 22) Matthew 9:33; Mark 8:22-25; Mark 9:25; Luke 7:21
- II. A BASE ACCUSATION.** Matthew 12:24
 - A. Blasphemy against Christ. Matthew 9:34; Luke 11:15
- III. AN EFFECTIVE ANSWER.** Matthew 12:25-29
 - A. House Divided (vs. 25-26)
 - B. Christ's Power over Satan (vs. 28) Matthew 17:18; Acts 16:18
 - C. Satan Defeated (vs. 29) John 12:30-31; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; 1 John 3:8
- IV. A GRAVE ADMONITION.** Matthew 12:30-32
 - A. No Middle Ground (vs. 30) Luke 11:23; 16:13
 - B. The Unpardonable Sin (vs. 32) Isaiah 63:10; Mark 3:29-30; Acts 5:3; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-31

GOLDEN TEXT: *FEAR GOD, AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS:
FOR THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.* Ecclesiastes 12:13

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Mark 4:35-41; 5:1-20

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Psalm 42:1-11; 107:23-30;
Jonah 1:1 through 2:10;
Matthew 8:23-34; Luke 8:22-37

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ - King and Savior

TOPIC: CHRIST, MASTER OF THE STORM

INTRODUCTION:

Occasionally we hear or read of people who, not professing to be Christians, call upon the Lord when they are in danger. They expect Him to deliver them from the storm, but when there is no storm, they have little or no thought for Him. Why is this? Surely they must have some faith in a Higher Power than the storm itself, or they would not seek help. They want help when needed but don't deem it necessary to return gratitude or love. They are independent, indifferent and self-centered. If only they would permit the small bit of faith to grow within their hearts and call upon the Lord always, for everything.

Christ has the power to still the storms, to save the sinner, if he would only permit Him to care for him in trying circumstances, in illness, temptations, misfortunes, etc. If the individual wants this power of Christ, it is up to him to surrender all to Jesus and devotedly become His disciple. Then he knows that whatsoever the circumstance may be, Christ has control over it and will care for the individual, and his heart will be filled with peace.

CENTRAL TRUTH: By His grace and power, Jesus Christ can give peace in the midst of the storms of life.

GOLDEN TEXT: *HE AROSE, AND REBUKED THE WIND, AND SAID UNTO THE SEA, PEACE BE STILL.* Mark 4:39

His disciples were fearful and said: "*What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?*" When one can realize in faith that this Son of Man is also the Son of God, we can—in measure—understand His power over the elements. For, this man, who was the Word made flesh, had a part in the creation of all things. "*For without Him was not anything made that was made.*" (John 1:3)

How blessed are we if we have taken Him into our "little ship" for our journey over the sea of life. For as surely as the sun shines, we will also experience storms of wind, clouds of despair, waves of doubt and fear and the danger of sinking into unbelief. We could never reach the safe harbor on our own, so it behooves us not to keep our Pilot in the hinder part of our ship, in the background, but to give Him full control of our lives. Then in the troubles, problems and trials of life, we can hear His command—"*Peace, be still.*"

When the waves of doubt assail thee
On life's deep and restless sea,
When the breakers nigh destroy thee
And thou cry: "Ah, woe is me!"
When thy Saviour seems asleep
Heedless of their angry sweep,
Zion, own Him still as Master;
He will save thee from disaster.

Z.H. 38, vs. 2

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Dec. 31 - Jan. 6

M. *Christ, Master of the Storm. Mark 4:35-41
T. *Meeting a Spiritual Storm. Mark 5:1-8
W. *Dealing with a Spiritual Storm. Mark 5:1-20
T. Jonah Faces a Storm. Jonah 1:1-17
F. God's Help in Time of Storm. Psalm 42:1-11
S. Trusting God in Time of Storm. Psalm 40:1-12
S. The Storm of Judgment. 2 Peter 3:1-14