

STUDY NOTES

THE WAY AND THE WORDS OF JESUS A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “The Unforgivable Sin” on 3/11/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: MARK 3:22-30

IS JESUS CRAZY OR PLUNDERING SATAN'S HOUSE?

The scribes and Pharisees accused Jesus of being demon-possessed. Jesus's family saw the works that he did and, even they, thought he was crazy. Jesus replied by showing how foolish the accusation was. If he cast out demons by demonic power, Satan would be working against himself. In the parable, the “strong man” is Satan and the stronger one is Jesus who was in the process of tying up Satan.

Jesus is binding Satan and plundering his house.

- *Imagine you are in the first century. Why do you think people accused Jesus of being crazy—even his family?*

What is Jesus's plan to do tie Satan up? He tells us what it is and confirms how he is going to do it by saying, “amen”—or so be it—to his plan to forgive the sins of all people.

- *Even if you have been following Jesus for a long time, why do you need to continually hear that Jesus can forgive the sins of anyone?*

JESUS FORGIVES ALL BUT ONE THING

There's one thing that has eternal consequences: rejecting the work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus and in your own life. Why is this so critical? We are saved by the power of the Spirit. So, if you reject that which can save you, then you cannot be saved.

You cannot reject the resurrection Spirit and expect to receive the resurrected life.

- *Have you ever heard people talk about the “unforgivable sin”? If so, what did they say about it?*

THE RESURRECTION LIFE

With repentance, anything can be healed. Without repentance, nothing can be healed. As long as someone is alive, there is always time to repent and turn to Jesus. The only reason these people had committed the unforgivable sin is because they would not turn to Jesus. To receive the resurrection life, we must repent and turn to Jesus. When we do so, the Spirit indwells comes and indwells us like it did Jesus. **Read Romans 8:10-11.**

You are not unforgivable. But, are you unrepentant-able?

- *How does being a follower of Jesus mean that we have to daily repent, or daily turn to him?*
- *What does (or should) this concept of daily repentance look like in your life?*
- *What does it feel like to know that the Spirit lives inside of you if you have turned to Jesus?*
- *How does the Spirit give you strength?*
- *Pray with each other for strength to regularly turn to Jesus.*