

SERIES: GETTING TO KNOW JESUS

SUBJECT: THE ONE THING THAT WILL SEND YOU TO HELL

SCRIPTURE: MARK 3:20-30

SERMON NO. 6

Introduction

John Wayne Gacy was a successful independent contractor, a leader in the Junior Chamber of Commerce. In 1970, the local Jaycee's elected him "Man of the Year", for his entertainment of hospitalized children as "Pogo the Clown".

But in 1972, he displayed a dark side. He began to kidnap, torture and kill young men. His victims ranged in age from 9 to 27. He lured some to their deaths with promises of construction jobs. Then he'd offer them liquor and, once he got them drunk, he tied them to a chair and chloroformed them. He sexually abused each of his victims before killing them. Afterwards, he buried the bodies in the crawlspace underneath his home. When he was finally caught, the police found 28 bodies in the crawlspace of his home, and five more corpses in a local river. On May 10, 1994, John Wayne Gacy, then 51 years old, was executed by lethal injection at Illinois' Stateville penitentiary.

Where do you think John Wayne Gacy is today? Heaven or Hell?

I. HELL IS A FRIGHTENING PLACE. 29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.

There are 8 frightening facts about Hell...

1. Hell is a place of fire... Matthew 5:22 I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgement: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, (stupid idiot) shall be in danger of the council; (Sanhedrin) but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

2. The fire of hell is eternal... Mark 9:43 If thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched.

3. Hell is a place of gloom... 2 Peter 2:4 God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.

Jude 6 repeats this verse. The angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

i) And the angels which kept not their first estate... This is not referring to all angels, but a certain group who did not keep their first estate. Their first estate was where they were created in perfect holiness and righteousness in their relationship to God. They were a superior rank of created beings then was humanity, and enjoyed the presence of God.

However they did not keep this first estate! One of them rebelled (sinned against) the authority of God, the rest of this group was drawn into this sin of rebellion by him. They were no longer what they were before, nor in the same estate, or place.

ii) but left their own habitation; why?

By attempting to rise higher than their assigned positions of honor, being unwilling to be subject to God, and especially to the Son of God, who was to assume human nature, and be above them, which they could not bear. They were turned out of heaven, and cast down to hell; **2 Peter 2:4 God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.**

iii) delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment. These "chains of darkness" refer to the power and authority of God that will always remain upon them. In this condition of horror and blackness they will always remember their sins as they face their final punishment and destruction. These angels are not yet in full punishment, but are kept in custody.

iv) unto the judgment of the great day;

This refers to the last "judgment" of men and devils. It will be certain, universal and executed with God's strictest justice. The day of this judgment is known only to God.. The matters judged will be as clear as the day, and finished at once. This will be God's severity against the rebellious opposers of the truths of the Gospel!

4. Hell is a place of torment... Luke 16:23-24 The rich man was buried and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom, and he cries and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazareth, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue for I am tormented in this flame. *Look at the next verse...*

5. Hell is a place of memories... Luke 16:25 But Abraham said, Son, remember in thy lifetime receiveth thy good things, and likewise Lazareth evil things: But now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. *Observe verse 28..*

6. Hell is a place of regrets... Luke 16:28 I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, less they also come into this place of torment. *When speaking out about hell Jeremiah warns...*

7. Hell is a place of being forsaken... Jeremiah 23:39a I, even I, will utterly forget you, and will forsake you.. *Jeremiah consinues..*

8. Hell is a place void of God... Jeremiah 23:39b And cast you out of my presence. *Facing the cold hard facts of scripture...*

All of us are headed for this place called Hell, that's described in the Bible...

1. Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,

2. Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Revelation 20:14-15 Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

If we were to stop at this point, we'd be most miserable. Because what I've just described for you is pure hopelessness. However, the Bible does not contain a message of hopelessness, but a message of hope. *The Bible tells us that no person has to go to Hell.*

II. NO PERSON HAS TO GO TO HELL.

1. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

2. John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

3. 1 John 5:11-12 This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the son of God hath not life.

There are many sins which will not send you to hell. (Mark 3:28). *Verily, I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: So if all our sins will be forgiven if confessed and repented of, what could possibly send you or me to hell?*

III. BLASPHEME AGAINST THE HOLY GHOST (Mark 3:29). But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.

What does blaspheme mean? Mr. Webster's says, it means to speak evil of. According to Vine's Expository dictionary of New Testament Words, blaspheme means "speech that defames the Divine Majesty." What does it mean to Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? *Let me give you a three part answer to that question.*

1. A refusal to believe God. (22). *The scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.* The scribes, these religious teachers, refused to believe that Jesus was God's Son. My friends, just because you refuse to believe something doesn't change the truth.

Illustration: In 1938, a man who had a home on the south shore of Long Island ordered a fancy barometer from Abercrombie and Fitch, the famous New York City sporting goods store. The barometer arrived on the morning of September 21st, and the owner proudly hung it up on his back porch. Half an hour later he took a peek at his new, high priced toy and was irritated to find the needle stuck at "hurricane". Quickly he sat down and wrote and angry letter to Abercrombie and Fitch, demanding a new barometer. When he returned home from the local post office after mailing his letter, he discovered that the barometer was missing... So was his house! On September 21, 1938, the worst hurricane to ever hit Long Island, New York. struck the shore.

A person's belief does not make something true. Only truth makes something true! So the first part of Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is a refusal to believe God. *The second blasphemy is...*

2. Mocking the power of God. (22). *The scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.* They refused to believe that it was God at work through Jesus, that caused demons to be driven out from people.

3. Refusing God's offer of salvation. Wouldn't you think that people want to be saved from Hell?

Illustrate: Ted Turner, when discussing the fact that Jesus died for him said, "He shouldn't have bothered. I didn't want him to die for me." That, friends is refusing salvation.

During the end times, during that period of time that the Bible calls "The Tribulation", there are going to be many who say, "No" to God.

If you don't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ you are on the road to ultimately committing the unforgivable sin. That sin is finally committed when you die without having a relationship with Him. Just think about it...

Unbelief, rejecting Christ. Mocking God by doubting His power to save you. Refusing His offer of salvation is rejecting Christ. The unforgivable sin is the sin of rejecting forgiveness. And without forgiveness you're headed to Hell.

Of all the sins a human being can commit, there is only one sin that will send you to Hell, it's the sin of rejecting Jesus Christ. That's what the scribes were doing in the verses we looked at in Mark 3.

My precious friends, don't you dare leave here today, in a similar frame of mind. This sin of Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit is ultimately committed when you die without Jesus as the forgiver of your sins. And none of us knows when that will be.