

Sermon Summary

2nd after Pentecost

10th June 2012

- This morning's gospel raises the question: what is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit
- We can compare this with unforgiveable sins found elsewhere (Hebrews 6; 10)
- At points in church history, people have viewed many sins as unforgiveable.
- Some viewed sins committed after baptism as unforgiveable. Constantine, we are told, knowing that politics was a dirty business, did not wish to waste his baptism- and postponed it to his deathbed.
- Such a view is not Scriptural. John 13:10 distinguishes baptism from confession (Bathing vs. Washing) and so reveals that post- baptismal sins may be forgiven.
- Nevertheless the problem remains- what is the sin which cannot be forgiven.
- Hebrews points us to the answer.
- Apostasy- that is rejection of Christ and his gift of salvation. The apostate separates him/herself from the one person who has the power to bring salvation, healing or forgiveness to him/her.
- A bit like refusing the medical treatment one knows is necessary to cure an illness.
- Anything else may be forgiven because one still has access to the saving power of Christ, even seventy times seven- though this should not be a licence to do whatever one wishes (Romans 6:1).
- It is called blasphemy against the Holy Spirit because it is a denial of God's purposes and power, sometimes even putting confidence in such possibilities elsewhere.
- This, for the Jews of Jesus' time, was blasphemy- giving what properly belongs to God to one of his creatures

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