

Small Group Notes based on The Spirit 9

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- This Week: Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
- Have you heard people react very strongly against the things of the Holy Spirit?
 - Why do you think that is?
 - How have churches responded to that?
- This seems dangerous since Jesus describes only one unforgiveable sin: blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
 - What is "blasphemy?" Sometimes translated "railing" or "evil speaking."
- Let's look at the account: **Matthew 12:22-32**. (also **Mark 3:22-30** and **Luke 12:10**)
 - So, the accused were Pharisees – self proclaimed religious know it alls.
 - They claimed that what God was doing by the Holy Spirit was actually the work of Satan.
 - Maybe that's because Jesus talked to the demons. **Mark 1:27**
 - Do you think that the Pharisees knew what was really going on and out of jealousy slandered the Holy Spirit to keep their position?
 - Does that happen sometimes in today's day?
 - The idea of an unforgiveable sin also occurs in **1 John 5:16**.
- Let's look at a couple of other Scriptures that I think are related:
 - **Hebrews 6:4-6**
 - This describes highly advanced believers "falling away." What does that mean?
 - Impossible to be brought to repentance sounds like unforgiveable.
 - Why? Because they won't repent.
 - **1 Timothy 4:1-2**
 - This describes "teachers." So, highly advanced religious people.
 - The problem is a seared conscience.
 - They are not going to repent with a seared conscience.
- Discuss the following conclusions:
 - Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is a high level sin that can only be perpetrated by people well advanced in the things of God.
 - So, if you not quite tracking today you have nothing to worry about!
 - The best evidence that something like this has occurred is that the person has a seared conscience and cannot be brought to repentance.
 - So, if you are worried about this your conscience hasn't been seared!
 - However, just because you feel "dead inside" doesn't mean you have done this either...
 - Have a proper reverence for God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - Don't slam Biblical spiritual things like miracles, prophecy, and speaking in tongues. That's the wrong road to be on.
 - However, it is ok to test everything. Question the people, not the Spirit.
- What is the most important commandment?
 - **Mark 12:28-31**
 - How does blaspheming the Holy Spirit line up with the most important command?
- Pray for each other before you finish up!