

THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN

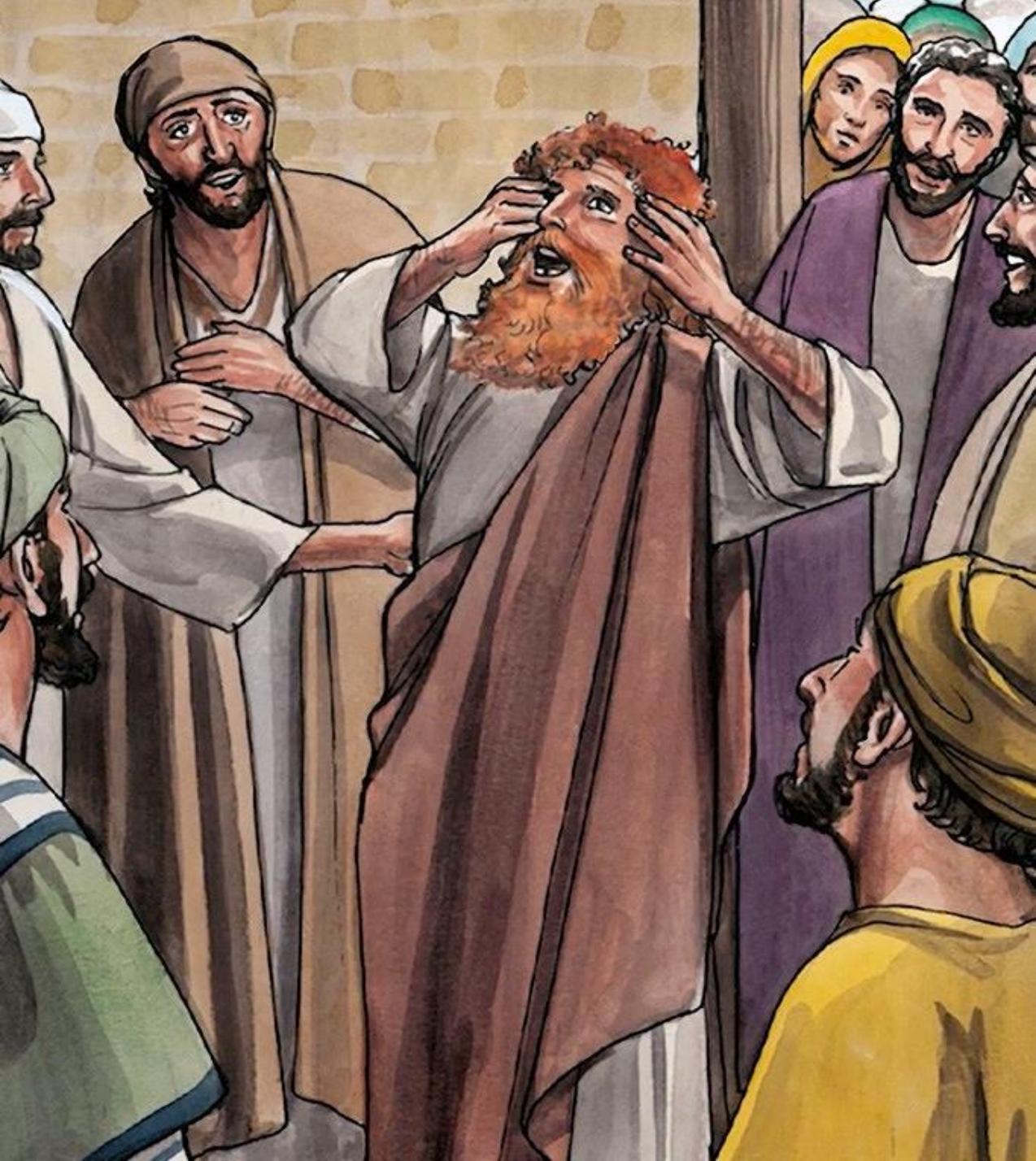
“Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men...but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness...”

– Mark 3:28-29

A Difficult Question

- “Perhaps there is not in all Holy Scripture found a more important or more difficult question.”
(St. Augustine)





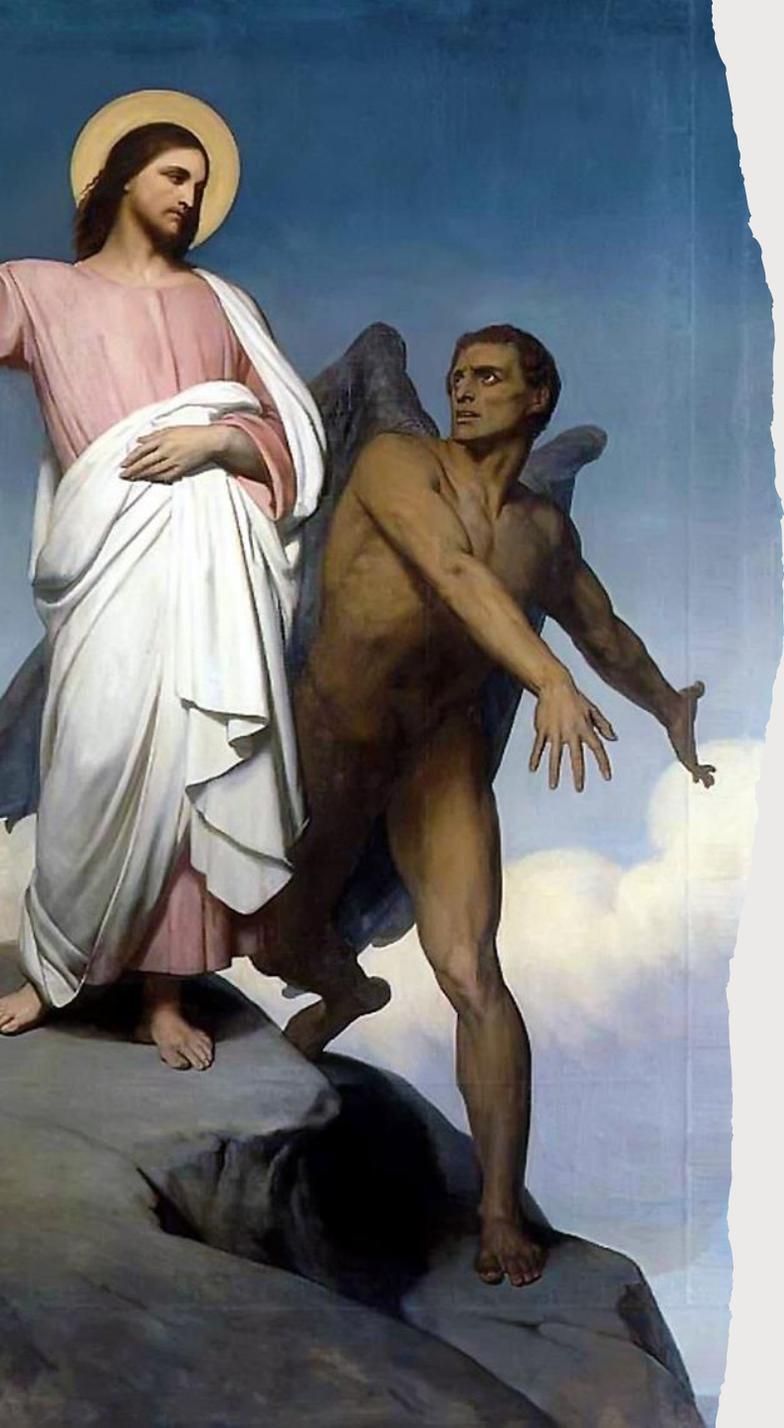
The Beelzebub Controversy

- The Lord just cast out a demon from the blind and mute man.
- *“Mute devils are difficult for any one of the saints to rebuke. They are more obstinate than any other kind and excessively bold.”*
(St. Cyril of Alexandria)



The Beelzebub Controversy

- “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. 26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. 28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Matt. 12: 25-28)
- Dissent in any system, house or kingdom, leads to desolation.



The Beelzebub Controversy

- The Strong Man
- *“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.” (Lk. 11:21-23)*

The Beelzebub Controversy

- The Finger of God
- “But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Lk. 11:20)
- For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” (Ex. 8:17-19)



Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

- Why did the Lord speak about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?
- What was the one sin declared unforgiveable?
- Why is it unforgiveable?
- Why is sin against the Son of Man forgivable, while sin against the HS is unforgivable?
- *“They might have been ignorant of Jesus and who he might be, but of the Spirit they could not be ignorant due to their own previous experience. For the prophets had spoken by the Spirit. The Old Testament as a whole had an exalted understanding of the Holy Spirit.”*
(St. John Chrysostom)