

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and "at home."

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Bob Wine

August 9, 2009

ONE SIN GOD CAN'T FORGIVE

Matthew 12:22-37

Is it possible for there to be a sin too great for God to forgive?

- Things aren't always as they **appear**.

Proverbs 4:23 "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."

- If you follow this verse, you'll avoid most every major spiritual problem in life -- gossip, critical or rebellious attitude, sexual immorality, family fights, etc.

1. RELIGION BREEDS FOSSILIZATION

- Whenever you lose interaction with God, your spiritual life will begin to disintegrate.

• The Pharisees were serious students of the Bible. But they had not "*guarded their hearts*", so they had no connection with God and their hearts had fossilized.

Matthew 12:14 NLT "...the Pharisees called a meeting to plot how to kill Jesus."

2. A PREJUDICED MIND MAKES BAD DECISIONS

Matthew 12:22-23 NLT "... Could it be that Jesus is the Son of David, the Messiah?"

- The Pharisees desperately attempted to poison the people's minds and make them doubt Jesus.

Proverbs 6:19b "(God) ... hates ... a man who stirs up **dissension** among brothers."

- Remember - they had already decided to kill Him.

3. GOD'S RESPONSE: "OK, HAVE IT YOUR WAY"

Matthew 12:25 "Jesus knew their thoughts ..."

- He didn't focus just on their **words**, but on their embittered and blind **hearts**.

- Digging Deeper - “One Sin God Can’t Forgive”

For personal or small group study

Week of August 9, 2009

Matthew 12:34 NLT “You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say.”

• After it is very clear that a person **will not** surrender to God’s leading, He essentially says, “Ok, have it your way” and allows them to destroy themselves.

Matthew 12:32 MSG “If you reject the Son of Man out of some misunderstanding, the Holy Spirit can forgive you, but when you **reject the Holy Spirit**, you’re sawing off the branch on which you’re sitting, severing by your own perversity all connection with the One who forgives.”

Numbers 15:30 “But anyone who sins **defiantly** ... blasphemes the Lord, and that person must be cut off from his people.”

Genesis 6:3 “God’s spirit will not always strive with man.”

• If a person persists in resisting God’s love, their door of opportunity closes.

4. HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN TODAY?

• Since God even forgave those who killed His only Son, there is no sin God can’t **forgive**.

• It’s not a matter of forgiveness; rather, it is about someone resisting God’s **conviction** and invitation until He says, “Ok, have it your way.”

• It’s an **eternal** mistake when anyone persists in ignoring or putting off what God is gently urging them to do. You must take God seriously.

Proverbs 4:23 “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”

• Don’t ignore God’s call to your conscience.

• There comes a time when God turns out the lights, when further opportunity for salvation is forever lost.

2 Corinthians 6:2 “Now is ‘the acceptable time,’ behold, now is ‘the day of salvation.’”

• If you still have a conviction of sin, be **grateful** for that because you have not committed the unforgivable sin.

• Just asking God to forgive you is not enough! You must change the way you’ve been thinking!

QUICK REVIEW: Which point or scripture passage was the most significant to you personally in this week’s message? Why?

GROUP DISCUSSION or PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Things aren’t always as they appear. Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Discuss a time when you read or saw something, but it was not what it appeared to be. How did it make you feel? Why do you think that was?
2. Read Matthew 12:31-32 and Mark 3:28-29. Is it possible for there to be a sin too great for God to forgive? Could it be that this statement is one of those things that is different than what it appears? How? What is Jesus really saying here? How is the unforgivable sin more than just saying an unkind thing against the Holy Spirit? [Mark 3:22-28; Matthew 12:14, 22-37; John 16:7-11; Hebrews 3:8-13; Proverbs 16:9]
3. Read Proverbs 4:23. What does this say about the value of our heart (our spirit)? What is a wellspring? What does the *wellspring of life* mean? How does this play into what we make a priority in our lives? What happens when we don’t guard our hearts? [Matthew 5:6; 6:33; Proverbs 7:24-27; Ephesians 4:1-3, 17-18, 26-27, 30-32]
4. Read James 4:7-8; Romans 1:22-26, 2:4-6; Numbers 15:30 and Genesis 6:3. Since God forgave those who killed Jesus, there is no sin God won’t and can’t forgive. What do these verses show us about God’s ways and how He works in our lives? Why should we be grateful if we still sense a conviction of sin?

If you have that conviction of sin...what should you do about it? What are you doing about it?
5. How has this teaching helped you understand these difficult to understand words of Jesus? Find a friend and talk about what you have learned to let it sink deeper into your spirit.