

calloused

Problem

The problem this passage addresses for us today is the problem of unrepentant church participation. In short, it is supremely dangerous - for it can lead to a callous heart -  
Read Hebrews 3:7-19.

CPT

To know Jesus and to reject Him anyways (Matthew 12:22-24)

-This blasphemy they had done before (9:32-34) but this time was different.

-read Matthew 12:13-15. notice that they knew who Jesus was. They saw the Spirit clearly bear witness to Christ and yet, fully knowing His person and work, chose to not only reject Him but to malign Him and with hopes to mislead others. In Matthew 12:13-15, we see that they knew Jesus had done the healing but didn't like how. They acknowledged His power even in their persecution.

is not only wrong (Matthew 12:25-30)

Jesus essentially says:

25-26 -if Satan was opposing himself he had committed suicide

27 -their position is self destructive

28-29 -only one alternative

30 -there is no middle ground

but unforgivable (Matthew 12:31-37)

-Their choice to not only reject but to malign the witness of the Spirit (Matt. 12:28) is unforgivable.

-Read 33-37- was it mere words that got them in trouble?

-Read Matthew 3:7-10; 7:17-20; Isaiah 5:1-7, 20. Thus their words reflected the condition of their hardened heart.

-Read again Matthew 12:31-32. What was so bad about this sin?

-Read Luke 23:34. What could be worse than murdering Jesus?... Doing it on purpose.

-Read 1 Timothy 1:13-14. Paul acted in ignorant unbelief. Not from Knowledge.

-This is illustrated in the Old Testament in Numbers 15:22-31.

-you see, God will forgive any sin, even the murder of His Son, but He will not forgive the willful rejection of Him. They knew He was God in the flesh without a doubt and chose to declare He was satan in the flesh. They uniquely, were given the greatest revelation in history and with full knowledge of His person chose to slander and accuse Him. these were unique conditions but...

What about today?

To know Jesus and to reject Him anyways is still unforgivable (Hebrews 6:4-9; Galatians 5:1-5; John 15:1-6) because it is knowingly rejecting the only means possible for salvation (Hebrews 10:26-31; 2 pet 2:17-22)

Application

for the believer - we must remember that church is a dangerous place to be - inviting for the unsaved but uncomfortable too. fake belief is the most dangerous condition we could encourage - and its being encouraged all across our city and nation. IN a sense the most merciful thing we could do would be to make it hard to fake faith. Real concern for God's calloused

holiness and glory are mercifully divisive and give a non-believer no false comfort by

which to be hardened in their unbelief.

For the person hearing this who is unconverted - come home -Luke 15:11-32 -(1-2)  
which brother will you be?

Read the following articles and discuss how to further apply this message to your life.

<http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=11&article=1218>

<http://www.gotquestions.org/blasphemy-Holy-Spirit.html>