

It is good to be back - I best days of a vacation are the day you leave and the day you come back.

THE POINT OF NO RETURN..MARK 3:29

I saw an expression made by Jack Finegan that impressed me very much. Here it is: "THE POINT OF NO RETURN."

In connection with this thought I want to read to you three passages of Scripture.

1. Mark 3:29..." But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness but is in DANGER of eternal damnation: because they said, 'He hath an unclean spirit.'" KJV.

"But whosoever blasphemeth against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin." SRV.

2. Matt. 12:32. "But whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him neither in this world, neither in the world to come." KJV

" But ~~whosoever~~ whosoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven in this age or in the age to come." SRV.

3. Luke 12:10. "But unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven." KJV.

"But he who blasphemeth against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven." SRV.

As you see these verses are all speaking of what we call the unpardonable sin.."The Point of No Return."

It is important to preach on this and make a study of it because the interpretation put on it has filled insane asylums with minds broken down by a guilt complex. After all those who fear that they are guilty could not be guilty for conscience is alert in them.

Let's illustrate by an airplane. You start from New York to fly to Europe. There will be a point out in the Atlantic which if you pass you will not have gas enough to to come back home if you meet a storm. Beyond that point he must keep on going.

In the light of this illustration let us look at some doctrines of the Bible and other things that may bring the lesson to us in clear outline.

1. The unforgivable sin. Some have suggested that Jesus would not have given out such a statement at a more calm period of His life. In the presence of these Pharisees who were ascribing His work to the devil must have raised His righteous indignation.

The doctrine of the Trinity came at a later date so it is suggested that what Jesus meant here ~~was~~ by Holy Ghost was the light that comes from God. They could deny His teaching and still find pardon but there is another kind of sin...willful blindness. Men could call this light darkness or Jesus' works of mercy the Black magic of the chief of devils Beelzebub. *people need this light just as physical body needs light*

Those men called the light from God midnight. What of those who said with the witches of Macbeth, "Fair is foul and foul is fair?"

Paul and Luke use such expressions as, "Grieve the Spirit" "Quench the Spirit," At long last there is no desire for pardon or even the recognition of it. That doom is described by Whittier when he says:

WHAT IF THINE EYE REFUSE TO SEE
THINE EAR OF HEAVEN'S FREE WELCOME FAIL
AND THOU A WILLING CAOTIVE BE
THYSELF THINE OWN DARK JAIL?

The Point Of No Return

2. Physical posture. You continue to stoop and bend over till you can not get the hump out of your back..the point of no return.
3. The alcoholic. 150,000 have returned it seems but think of all the other hundreds of thousands who do not even want to try to return. DRUG addiction the same condition.

So many people go on and on and still have the power to return but go beyond the point where they can return or it amounts to that(In their own strength). Niagara river. There you are free to paddle up or down..to a certain point but that point reached you can not get back in your own strength...The Point Of No Return.

Jesus was talking to a people who said His work was of the devil..they had reached the point where they saw Christ as devil..could ^{not} tell God from SATAN..good from evil.

3.

Fish in Mammoth Cave. Eyes normal except that optic nerve is shrivelled away. Put out in the light they could not see..no return to sight. THEY DO NOT DO THAT BY CHOICE BUT PEOPLE DO.

COM 4

There is also encouragement. If this is the right interpretation of the teaching of Jesus, then we know that as long as we can tell any difference between what is right and what is wrong, we have not yet committed the unpardoned sin. As long as we can see the light and recognize it for the light at all, then we are not hopelessly lost. As long as we recognize the work of God, as His work, and wish that we were with God, we can come back to be with Him.

Dr. Leslie Weatherhead says that if you are capable of worrying about the unpardonable sin you are incapable of committing it."

There is another side to this proposition. We should travel in the direction of a line of no return which line is crossed in traveling toward God. You cross it with no intention of crossing back into sin. *But we line must warn that we can come back across the line*

Now let us think of the airplane picture. You have crossed a line and can not turn back and reach home on the gas you have. But suppose that a few miles back this way in an airplane carrier ready to receive you when you turn around and bring you home?

Corner

In the Christian way of thinking that airplane is Christ. If you have crossed the danger line He invites you to return to Him and He will take you home. *So just as Christ can save the man who crossed the line, you can come back from across the line* Then the picture of Niagara river. You have played around and approached the falls and are so close to them that you can not row back away from them. But suppose that a helicopter swoops down and says take hold and we will carry you to safety. You separate from the vessel carrying you to death and fly to a haven of safety.

This is Christ again as He says God can save to the uttermost all of those who come to Him through me.

Then we come to a line that can never be crossed back ~~over a line crossed and that is dead and that is death~~ *over after we have crossed it.*

4.

Now about life after crossing that line I want to quote what Mr. Finegan says: QUOTE.." What lies beyond that line we are not wise enough to say, or good enough to boast about. We dare hope that beyond , even for one who has not found it possible to get back across the ^{line} to God in this life, there MAY be, in His infinite mercy, some provision or possibility." Thinking of that angle how are you going to interpret Matt 12:32? Here is how it reads: "BUT WHOSOEVER SPEAKETH AGAINST THE HOLY GHOST IT SHALL NOT BE FORGIVEN HIM NEITHER IN THIS WORLD ~~MM~~ NEITHER IN THE WORLD TO COME." This would indicate that some sins other than the unpardonable sin may be forgiven in the world to come.

But the SRV puts that passage this way: "But whosoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven in this age or in the age to come." But some people do not want to take what the SRV says and for them the King James indicates that sins may be forgiven in the other world.

So about the unpardoned sin do not feel that you have committed it as long as you fear you have. For only those commit it who have blinded themselves to point where they see God as devil and do not want Him. If they die like that then they die unpardoned and Matt says that that sin is an eternal sin and neither forgiven in this world neither in the world to come.

But we have a feeling that even though a person has blinded himself to the light until he is like those Pharisees there might be some one some time who might touch a responsive chord in his life and pull him back across the line and save even such a person from an eternity of unpardoned sin, for as the poet has said, "As long as the LIGHT holds out to burn the VILEST sinner may return."

Now friends that is OUR business to awaken those asleep to the light and pull them back from the NIAGARA RIVER as we say to them, "Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead and the Lord shall give thee light."

