

# The STORY CHURCH

**Personal & Group Study Guide:** October 2, 2022

**Message Series: DEEP TRACKS:** The Lesser-Known Teachings of Jesus

**Message Title: TRACK 4 - The Unforgivable Sin**

**Series Intro:** Anyone can sing along to the hits, but it takes a true fan to know the *deep tracks* - an album's less popular songs that get buried between the more radio-friendly Billboard bops. If Jesus' teachings were an album or a playlist, scattered among his *greatest hits* (*The Good Samaritan, The Golden Rule, Love One Another*) you'd also find his *deep tracks* that may shock or even offend you - such as *Hate Your Parents, Die Fig Tree Die*, and *I Came to Bring the Sword!* What are we supposed to do with the most confounding things that Jesus had to say? Join us Sept 11 - Oct 2 as we explore the deep tracks of Jesus.

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This week's DEEP TRACK is found in **Matthew 12:31-32**, where Jesus said:

*“And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but **blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven**. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but **anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.**”*

**Why has this teaching been the source of so much confusion and angst over the years?**

**How do religious manipulators and charlatans use a passage like this one for their own selfish gain?**

**CONTEXT MATTERS**, so let's examine the circumstances that gave rise to this week's *Deep Track*.

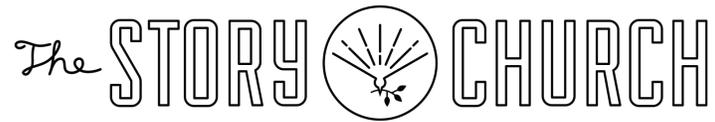
**Matthew 12:22-32** - Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?” But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.”

**What was the significance of the title (“Son of David”) that the people began ascribing to Jesus? And what was the meaning of the name (*Beelzebul*) that the Pharisees associated with Jesus?**

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

**How did Jesus refute the Pharisees' accusation that he was driving out demons by Satan's power?**

Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but



blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

**What does it say about Jesus that he's willing to forgive "every kind of sin and slander", including anyone who "speaks a word against the Son of Man"?**

**Who is the Holy Spirit and what are some of His particular roles and characteristics?** (See John 16:7-8, Romans 8:26-27, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

**If the Holy Spirit brings conviction about sin and inspires repentance in the believer's heart, how are we to understand someone who knows God and refuses to repent?**

**If someone asked you whether there is any sin that God will not or cannot forgive, how would you respond and why?**

**How has the Holy Spirit been convicting you and leading you toward repentance?**

*Your Notes:*