

Series: Unexpected Messiah Passage Mathew 12:9-32 Title: Unpardonable Sin

Speaker: Pastor David Menard – 9/13/2020

**Discussion Starter** –Have you ever tried to love someone who did not reciprocate your feelings? Consider how you have responded to God's love toward you. Is there evidence in your life that demonstrates Jesus' lordship over your life? In what ways have you rejected this lordship?

## **Jesus Heals on the Sabbath** (Matthew 12:9-14)

• What logical argument did Jesus make in his confrontation with the Pharisees? Jesus confrontation with the Pharisees denied their authority. How did the Pharisees respond? How do you respond when confronted with your own shortcomings?

## Jesus did not Promote Himself (Matthew 12:15-21)

- Why do you think Jesus ask people he healed not to tell others?
- In verses 18-21, who is speaking? Who is the "servant" mentioned in verse 18? What is meant by the word "justice" in verse 18?
- How does Jesus resolve being a king and servant simultaneously? Why did Jesus not have a need to promote himself? What is the best way to be great in God's kingdom? (See Matthew 23:11-12)

## **Self-Promotion Blinds Us from Seeing God's Work in Our Life** (Matthew 12:22-32)

- Jesus healed the blind and deaf, demon possessed man. What identity did the Pharisees, who witnessed this healing, give to Jesus? Who did the Pharisees say was responsible for the healing?
- What logic did Jesus use to show the problem with the Pharisees' claim? Who is the strong man in this story and how does this point to Jesus' deity?
- How might Jesus' argument about a divided house apply to the United States today? Are you participating in sowing division? How do you balance your understanding of God's will against the evil you encounter?
- We do not have to be against Jesus to oppose him. Do you have a faith that is passive? Is Jesus the lord of your life? Describe in your own words what it means to be for Jesus? What does that person's life look like?
- Jesus will forgive any sin but one. What is the unpardonable sin? (Verse 32). What is the meaning of "blaspheming of the Holy Spirit"? How might you fall into this sin? Do you believe you can be a follower of Jesus and commit blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?