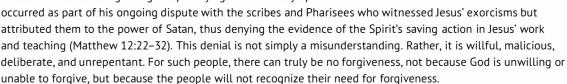
Dear Padre,

Is there really an unforgivable sin?

In the Gospels, Jesus teaches that blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven (Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-29, Luke 12:10). This seems to imply the existence of a sin that God either cannot or will not forgive. Yet we have the overwhelming testimony of the Scriptures and Church teaching that God's mercy and forgiveness are more powerful than any sin, no matter how serious or frequent it might be. This apparent contradiction disappears when we carefully consider the context of Jesus' teaching on the "unforgivable sin."

Jesus' statements regarding blasphemy against the Holy Spirit



The "unforgivable sin" is not an action so horrible that even God's patience and mercy are exhausted. Rather, it is the attitude of people who reject the Lord's presence in their lives. God's offer of forgiveness is still universal. We need only respond to his grace and seek his forgiveness.

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Monday July 29 Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus Jer 13:1–11 Jn 11:19–27 or Lk 10:38–42	Tuesday July 30 <i>Weekday</i> Jer 14:17-22 Mt 13:36-43	Wednesday July 31 St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest Jer 15:10, 16-21 Mt 13:44-46	Thursday August 1 St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Jer 18:1-6 Mt 13:47-53	Friday August 2 Weekday Jer 26:1-9 Mt 13:54-58	Saturday August 3 Weekday Jer 26:11–16, 24 Mt 14:1–12	Sunday August 4 Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Ex 16:2-4, 12-15 Eph 4:17, 20-24 Jn 6:24-35
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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Every day...around seven thousand children under the age of five die due to malnutrition.... Jesus also addresses an invitation to us... "Be brave, give what little you have, your talents, your possessions, make them available to Jesus and to your brothers and sisters. Do not be afraid, nothing will be lost, because if you share, God will multiply." ANGELUS, ROME, JULY 25, 2021

