

Luke 5:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying,
Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive
sins, but God alone?

Analysis

Scribes and Pharisees began to reason saying Who is this that speaks blasphemies Who can forgive sins but God alone. Scribes grammateis Torah experts. Pharisees Pharisaioi religious separatists. Began ērxanto initiated. Reason dialogizesthai think through deliberate. Saying legontes articulating. Who tis interrogative. This houtos derogatory this fellow. Speaks lalōn continuous present. Blasphemies blasphemias insults to God. Who tis. Can forgive dynatai has power ability. Sins hamartias moral failures. But ei mē except. God alone monos ho theos exclusively. Religious leaders correctly understood implication. Forgiveness divine prerogative. Jesus claiming deity. Either He is God or commits blasphemy. No middle ground. Trilemma liar lunatic Lord. Cannot be merely good teacher. Claims require verdict. Reformed theology affirms Jesus full deity. He has authority to forgive because He is God incarnate. His sacrificial death satisfies justice. Forgiveness not cheap grace but costly purchased by blood.

Historical Context

Forgiveness central to Jewish theology. Day of Atonement sacrifices. God alone forgives based on sacrificial system. Priest mediated did not forgive. Jesus pronouncing forgiveness claimed divine authority. Religious leaders saw clearly implications. Their conclusion logical if Jesus is not God then He blasphemes. Problem was they rejected His deity despite evidence. Miracles fulfilled prophecy authoritative teaching all pointed to deity. Hardness of heart blinded them. Early

church proclaimed Jesus divine authority to forgive. Peter Pentecost Paul everywhere preached forgiveness through Christ name alone. This offended Jews polytheists monotheists. Exclusive claim. Offense continues today. Pluralism rejects exclusive claims. But biblical Christianity maintains Christ alone forgives. No other name given among men whereby we must be saved.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why is Jesus authority to forgive sins central test of His identity either God or blasphemer?
2. How does religious leaders correct theology (only God forgives) combined with rejection of Jesus deity demonstrate that right doctrine without right response condemns?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἤρξαντο	διαλογίζεσθαι	οἱ	γραμματεῖς	καὶ	οἱ
And	began	to reason	G3588	the scribes	And	G3588
G2532	G756	G1260		G1122	G2532	
Φαρισαῖοι	λέγοντες	τίς	ἐστίν	οὗτος	ὃς	λαλεῖ
the Pharisees	saying	Who	is	this	which	speaketh
G5330	G3004	G5101	G2076	G3778	G3739	G2980
βλασφημίας	τίς	δύναται	ἀφιέναι	ἁμαρτίας	εἰ	μὴ
blasphemies	Who	can	forgive	sins	G1487	G3361
G988	G5101	G1410	G863	G266		
μόνος	ὁ	θεός				
alone	G3588	God				
G3441		G2316				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 43:25 (Sin): I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

John 10:33 (References God): The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

Luke 7:49 (Sin): And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

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