

Satan, which is what Jesus declares unforgivable.

Despite the seriousness of Jesus’s accusation, we should not miss the hope in Jesus’s words before his warning: Jesus says, “all sins will be forgiven” along with “whatever blasphemies” when we turn to him. But someone who’s has made a habit of declaring Jesus a servant of Satan demonstrates his or her refusal to turn to Jesus in repentance.

So, if you’re worried about whether or not you’ve committed the unforgivable sin, you can be sure already that you haven’t committed it. Your heart is sensitive to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and you’re chasing Jesus. All the other sins you may have piled up in your life are forgiven in him.

How have you grown in your understanding of the permanence of your salvation?

How would you describe blasphemy to a young believer?

Take the next five minutes and spend some time praying. Thank the Father that, through Jesus, you have complete forgiveness. Then ask the Holy Spirit to continue to prick your conscience over sins in your life so that you never develop a trajectory toward hardness.

2. Peek at the Greek: parable

In Mark 4, Jesus puts on his Master Teacher hat, assuming the posture of literary expert. Instead of merely telling the people what to do and why they should do it, he begins painting word pictures: “The kingdom of God is like... ”

themselves to him. As we read his parables, we are faced with a similar choice.

Read Mark 4:30–32. Identify each element in the parable and the overall message. Ask yourself these questions:

- **What does this tell us about God?**
- **How does it point us to Christ?**
- **How should it change us?**
