

OCCASIONS FOR BLASPHEMY

Text: 2 Samuel 12:13-14

INTRO: To blaspheme is to speak about God or sacred things with abuse or contempt. To help us better understand the importance of this subject, let us be reminded of four facts:

1. Blasphemy like other sins, has its origin in the heart of man, and comes forth to defile him, Matt. 15:18-20.
2. Blasphemy is, as Paul said it would be, one of the common sins that characterize our age, 2 Tim. 3:1-2.
3. Strange as it may seem, the sin of blasphemy is not limited to the irreligious but is often found among religious folk
 - a. Jews in Corinth, Acts 18:6
 - b. False Jews in Smyrna, Rev. 2:9
 - c. Apostates Hymenaeus & Alexander, 1 Tim 1:20
 - d. Blasphemy is listed among things Christians are to put off, Col. 3:8
4. As our text indicates, even those who are not themselves guilty of blasphemy, may so live as to give occasion for others to blaspheme, Rom. 2:24.

Note: We often refer to the sin of giving occasion to blaspheme as "casting reproach on the church." We would do well to show this sin up for what it really is by speaking of it in the terms of our text. Causing others to stumble is a serious sin, Matt. 18:6.

I. SINS OF IMMORALITY GIVE OCCASION FOR BLASPHEMY. READ 2 SAMUEL 12:7-14.

- A. The sword would not depart from David's house, vs. 10
 1. Death of infant son.
 2. Amnon killed by Absalom, 2 Sam. 13:28
 3. Rebellion of Absalom ending in his death, 2 Sam 18

B. As he had defiled Uriah's wife David's own wives would be defiled, vs. 11. Fulfilled by Absalom, 2 Sam. 16:22.

C. Even all these consequences did not erase the fact that the enemies of God would use David's sin as an occasion to blaspheme. In fact, they still do.

II. DISHONESTY IN BUSINESS.

1 Tim 6:1-2, Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

III. IMPROPER HOME & FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS.

1 Tim. 5:14, Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

Titus 2:1-8, But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things--that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incurruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

IV. THINGS WHICH CAUSE RELIGIOUS DIVISION.

2 Peter 2:1-2, But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift

destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

V. WILLFUL DISRESPECT FOR THE LAWS OF THE LAND.

A. Anyone who has read much from the Bible knows that Christians are taught to be obedient to those in civil authority, Romans 13:1-7.

B. When a person who claims to be a Christian willfully & maliciously disregards the laws of the land & rebels against established govt., it cannot help but cause occasions for blasphemy.

1 Peter 2:11-16, Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evil-doers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

CONCLUSION: The sins discussed in this lesson should not be considered a complete list of sins that might cause blasphemy but, this lesson should cause us to look into our lives and see if such sins might be found there. Each Christian needs to live so as to "walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time" (Col. 4:5), so that he does not give occasion for the enemies of God to blaspheme.

1. If you have spoken against God or His word or His church because of some ungodly church member, you need to realize that you stand as an enemy of God & you need to repent of your sins & obey the gospel of Christ.
2. If you as a child of God have committed some sin of a public nature such as might give occasion to nonChristians to belittle the work of God, you need to repent now

and use the remainder of your life exerting all the influence you can to lead others to obedience to the will of God.

La Porte, TX, November 13, 1977
Liberty Hill, TX, November 23, 1977
La Porte, TX, April 3, 1983
Exton, PA, January 4, 1987
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, January 15, 1995
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, August 21, 2005