



## THREE GROUPS

- **The crowds** – come to Jesus because of what He can do for them; not bad but not sufficient
- **The disciples** – following Jesus; committed to learning from Him and living like Him
- **The apostles (The Twelve)** – chosen by Jesus to be with Him in deeper way and commissioned by Him to do His ministry



**ETERNAL/  
UNFORGIVABLE  
SIN**

- **Blasphemy** – to slander or defame God
- **Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit** – to attribute the Holy Spirit’s work through Jesus to the devil (He has an impure spirit)
- **Why unforgiveable?** – it is never acknowledged as sin and never repented of



**ETERNAL/  
UNFORGIVABLE  
SIN**

- **Can't accidentally commit this sin** – it is a persistent rejection of the convicting and enlightening work of the Holy Spirit
- **God is for reconciliation** – He is not looking for reasons to keep people out but opportunities to draw them in
  - **Father forgive them**
  - **Paul – I once was a blasphemer and persecutor (1Tim 1.13)**



WORK OF  
THE HOLY  
SPIRIT

- **We don't blaspheme, but we do become cynical:**
  - God has disappointed us in the past
  - God doesn't fully explain Himself
  - People who trust God fully seem naïve
- **Remedy** – regular and intentional thankfulness; acknowledging God-at-work will help keep your eyes open to His activity in your life



## MANAGING JESUS

- We don't try to seize Jesus, but we do try to manage Him through:
  - Good behavior
  - Spiritual disciplines – especially prayer and fasting
- **Remedy** – regular and intentional submission to Him
  - Act of saying, 'I surrender, I submit' will change your heart over time
  - Submission often looks like obedience