



desert breeze community church

Teaching Notes: Ray Davis
February 15, 2009
Jesusology

“Lunatic, Liar or Lord?”

Mark 3:20-35

Counterfeit Jesus' abound in our pluralistic world today. Who is Jesus Christ? Outrageous Claims so far in the Gospel of Mark (1st Three chapters):

- “Kingdom of God is near...come follow me.” Mark 1:15,17
- He demonstrates power over demons. Mark 1:25
- “Son of Man” Mark 2:10 = Divine figure in Hebrew Scriptures (Daniel 7) who is coming at the end of time to judge and cleanse the world.
- Forgives sins. Mark 2:10
- “Lord of the Sabbath” Mark 2:28 = He is the source of true rest.

Jesus claimed to be God! It's either true or false and it's something that should be given serious consideration.

Mark 3:20-35

WRONG IDEAS ABOUT WHO JESUS IS: (Matt. 16:13-20; 2 Cor. 11:2-4)

- 1) **He's Crazy. (Lunatic)** vv20-21
- 2) **He's Evil. (Liar)** v22

Why Lunatic and Liar are bad options:

- ✓ No abnormalities or imbalances in His behavior.
- ✓ Most profound and liberating sayings ever recorded.
- ✓ His world wide and historical impact is incomparable.
- ✓ Many of His early followers were Jews who would be the last ones to ever say that God became a human.
- ✓ His claims to being God led to His death.
- ✓ His claims led many of his followers to martyrdom (Including His siblings).

3) He's a Great Moral Teacher. (Leader)

As modern people we have come up with a forth theory: DA Vinci Code based on the Gnostic Gospels. Here's how the theory goes: You can't trust the N.T. Gospels to tell you what Jesus really said or did they are merely legends. The real Jesus never claimed to be God and resurrected from the dead. Therefore you must look to the lost books of the Bible (Gnostic Gospels) which tell us that Jesus was just a great moral teacher.

Why Great Moral Teacher is a Bad Option: Gnostic Gospels have proved to be forgeries, fraudulently written in the names of the Apostles in order to give them legitimacy in the early church. There are countless contradictions between the Gnostic gospels and NT gospels. (www.gotquestions.org) NT Gospels couldn't be legends that were made up later because...

- ✓ They were written too early.
- ✓ Content is too counterproductive.
- ✓ The literary form is too detailed.

WHO JESUS SAYS HE IS: VV23-27

This is a parable with Jesus speaking metaphorically:

- 1) **This world is under the rule of Satan.** (John 12:31; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; 1 John 5:19; Eph. 2:2; Matt. 4:8)
- 2) **No Kingdom wins if it attacks itself.**
- 3) **I am the Lord who has come to bind Satan.** (Gen. 3:15; Psalm 2; Isa. 7:14, 9:6-7; John 10:10; Col. 1:13; Rev. 12:10-11)

IF JESUS IS LORD OF MY LIFE I WILL HAVE:

- 1) **Unending Humility.** Vv28-30 (James 4:6; Matt. 5:3-12)
- 2) **Ultimate Allegiance.** Vv 31-34 (Mark 1:16-20; Luke 14:25-27)
- 3) **Unconditional Obedience.** V35 (Luke 6:46-49)



Growing

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1) Counterfeit Jesus' abound in our pluralistic world today. Explain. What outrageous claims has Jesus made about Himself so far in the Gospel of Mark (1st Three chapters)? (See this week's sermon notes intro.)

2) How would you respond to someone who consistently claimed what Jesus claimed? How does Jesus' family respond to His claims (vv 20-21)? What are the Religious leaders saying about Jesus (v22)?

3) What defensible arguments would you give against calling Jesus a lunatic or a liar? Most modern people don't like the options of Lunatic, Liar or Lord. So, they have come up with what 4th option? Explain. How would you refute this DA Vinci Code (Gnostic gospel) 4th option? (www.gotquestions.org)

4) Using a parable metaphorically who does Jesus say He is (vv23-27)? What evidence do you see that this world is under the power of Satan? How is the cure of this world's problems beyond the scope of education, legislation or any other form of man made solution?

5) If Jesus is Lord of your life what three things from this study will be evident in your life? What is the unpardonable sin? Take time to pray through these three characteristics of His Lordship for your life.