

Lunatic, Liar or Lord? Mark 3:20-35

Was Jesus a Lunatic? Mark 3:20-21

"When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, 'He has lost His senses.'" Mark 3:21

- *"His own people"* - This was a way of describing Jesus' family
- *"they went to take custody of Him"* - Literally means to "grab a hold of"
- *"for they were saying, 'He has lost His senses.'" - Jesus' family thought He was crazy*

Was Jesus a Liar? Mark 3:22-27

"The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, 'He is possessed by Beelzebul,' and 'He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.'" Mark 3:22

- *"The scribes who came down from Jerusalem..."* - A delegation sent to squash Jesus' popularity
- Accusation #1 of the scribes: *"were saying, He is possessed by Beelzebub..."* First century Jewish people gave Satan the nickname, "Beelzebul" which meant "lord of the dung"
- Accusation #2 of the scribes: *"He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons."*
- Jesus' response:
 - Parable #1 - A house divided
 - Parable #2 - Entering a strong man's house

Was Jesus Lord? Mark 3:28-30

"Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter" Mark 3:28

- *"Truly I say to you"* - Jesus uses the word "truly" (Greek word: "amen") indicating authority
- *"all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men..."* - Jews believed only God could forgive sins
- *"and whatever blasphemies they utter"* - Blasphemy meant to profane the Holy name of God
- Unforgivable Sin? Mark 3:29-30
 - Unbelief in Jesus as Savior/Lord keeps us in a state of unforgiveness and the "guilt of eternal sin."

Who Do you say Jesus is? Mark 3:31-35

- Lunatic, Liar or Lord?
- Jesus' family members were transformed: Mary, James, Jude
- Apollos' modern day story: Belief in Jesus and suffering for His name
- For those who say Jesus is Lord, you are brought into a new family
 - *"For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."* Mark 3:35
 - *"This is the will of My Father that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life."* John 6:40

Digging Deeper: CS Lewis and the Trilemma Argument

The “Lord, Liar, Lunatic” argument is called the “Trilemma argument.” The late British Theologian and Author, C.S. Lewis, speaking in a series of radio messages in 1942 and published in the book, ‘Mere Christianity’ in 1952, gave the argument its most memorable formulation:

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to... Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God.” (‘Mere Christianity,’ pgs.55-56)

LifeGroup Discussion:

Read Mark 3:20-30. Reflect on your life before you were a believer in Jesus. What did you think about Jesus? Did you think He was crazy like His family at one time did? Did you think He was a liar like the Jewish religious leaders did? What was the catalyst in your life to believe that Jesus was Lord?

Read Mark 3:28-30 again. Jesus speaks with great authority in this passage. He tells His accusers that “all/any” sin could be forgiven thru acknowledgement of Jesus as Savior/Lord. Why would someone be unforgiven and guilty of “eternal sin” just because they don’t believe in Jesus?

Read Mark 3:31-35. Jesus redefines family as not just biological relationships, but spiritual relationships, when He says, “*For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.*” How does Jesus’ redefinition of family impact how you should treat other followers of Jesus?

Next Steps:

JOIN A LIFE GROUP: LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. Take a next step by, contacting Connections + LifeGroups Pastor, Robert Carter, at rcarter@calvarylife.org or indicate “LifeGroups” on The Card (located in the seat rack in front of you). calvarylife.org/lifegroups

SIGN UP TO SERVE AT NEIGHBORGOOD: Help demonstrate God’s love to our surrounding neighborhood on Saturday, May 5, from 8:00 am-noon. Volunteers are needed to help in the car clinic, health + salon center, farmers’ market, bike shop, kid zone and more. Find out more about this day to bless our neighbors and sign up to get involved at calvarylife.org/good

GO TO MANCAMP: Come connect at the annual weekend experience for the men of Calvary Church at Palomar Mountain, May 18-20. Discover more or register online today at calvarylife.org/mancamp