

Series: The Gospel of Mark
"Lair, Lunatic, or Lord?" # 14
Mark 3:20-35
4-2-17 Sun PM

By stating He was Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-3:6) Jesus clearly claimed to be God. He left His hearers with only three options: They would think of him as delusional, demonic, or divine.

They would embrace him as Son of God and Savior of the world, or they would reject him as dangerous and insane and must be silenced (3:6).

Lunatics cannot heal the sick or raise the dead. Frauds cannot perform undeniable miracles. Someone empowered by evil spirits use that power to cast out demons.

The only sensible option is that Jesus is the messianic King, the Son of the living God. He is Lord and Savior raised from the dead and seated at the Father's right hand.

Eph. 1:20-21, "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, (21) Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Despite His teaching, miracles, and authentication by OT prophets, many refused to believe in Him.

1. His family suggested he lost his senses and was a lunatic (3:2-21).
2. Religious leaders alleged He was a liar whose powers came from Satan (3:22-30).
3. The followers obeyed him as Lord (3:31-35). They understood that Jesus is both Lord and God.

I. His Family Thought He Was a Lunatic (3:20-21).

Despite his clear teaching and logic, despite his popularity, certain members of Jesus' family and friends thought he was gone mad.

After Jesus appointed the Twelve, he came to Peter and Andrew's home and could not even eat bread because of the multitude.

When his own people or friends heard this they went to take custody of him. This is confirmed as his family in v. 31. They traveled from Nazareth 30 miles to Capernaum to take him.

They believed he was beside himself or lost his senses. They came to protect him from himself. Mary knew who he was because it was revealed unto her (Luke 1 and 2).

The brothers of Jesus did not believe in him just yet. They lived with him for 30 years and observed his perfect life.

Turn to **Mark 6:3**. Mary had several children by Joseph after the conception of Jesus by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was one of at least seven children born to Mary, Five brothers and at least two sisters.

James was a leader in the Jerusalem church and Judas wrote the book of Jude. We know nothing of the other two brothers.

The phrase "beside himself" or "lost his senses" means to be insane or lost his mind. They would embrace him and believe him after the resurrection and his appearance.

They did what every family would do, rescue their brother and bring him back to Nazareth.

People even today think he was irrational and a lunatic.

I. His Family Thought He Was a Lunatic (3:20-21).

II. The Religious Leaders thought He Was Demonic (3:22-30).

1. v. 22- The Accusation Against Jesus.

(1). The Scribes- They came seeking Jesus but not to save his life like his family. They wanted to slander him and eventually kill him (3:6).

They believed he worked miracles by the ruler of the demons, Beelzebub. Unable to deny his miracles, they devised a smear campaign to discredit him. Satan's mode of operation has not changed from the garden, to here, and now!

The LASB says, "The more effective you are in your Christian life, the more extreme will be the attacks of the enemy. Even the most ridiculous accusation will convince some when it's cleverly packaged to sound sincere and concerned. Stand firm for the truth, even when clever attacks come."

They traveled more than 100 miles from Jerusalem to Capernaum (around Samaria) showing the level of their hatred for him. He was a threat to their authority.

(2). Beelzebub- "Lord of the Flies" and one of the names for Satan. This name referred to Baal and later a name for Satan. Jews believed him to be the supreme evil spirit.

Hollywood's satanic influence can be seen in movies or TV shows like, "Lucifer," or "Lord of the Flies." I searched internet and stopped when a pop up entitled "Are you a fan of the supernatural? Like it on face book." Just an innocent search could snare a innocent child or teenager!

The power of Jesus came from one of two sources- God or Satan. They called him a liar when He claimed to be God and said his power came from Satan.

2. vs. 23-30- The Answer of Jesus.

v. 23a- Knowing what the Pharisees were saying about him, Jesus called the crowd to Himself and asked a question, "How can Satan cast out Satan?"

Parables were earthly stories or analogies with a spiritual point. He taught them to reveal truth to his disciples and obscure the truth from unbelievers (Matt. 13:11-12).

(1). vs. 23b-26- The Parable. Two proofs Jesus was not empowered by Satan:

1. If Satan were casting out his own agents or destroying his own works, then his kingdom would be hopelessly divided. The devil does not deploy his agents to fight against each other.

2. The fact that Jesus spent his earthly ministry exposing, confronting rebuking, and casting out demons was proof He was not empowered by Satan.

(2). vs. 27-30- The Point.

1. v. 27- Jesus had power over Satan.

The point of Jesus' parable would be obvious to his listeners. Only someone stronger than the strong man (Satan) could enter his domain, bind him, disperse his agents, and liberate his captives from the kingdom of darkness.

You know where I am headed. People in the spiritual warfare movement today think they have power over Satan. But who is the one in the passage who binds the strong man? Jesus.

2. vs. 28-30- The Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

For the Pharisees and Scribes to attribute the power of Jesus to Satan rather than the Holy Spirit, was the highest form of blasphemy and were in danger of hell fire.

First Century Jews believed in three levels of blasphemy:

1. Speaking evil of the law of God.
2. Speaking evil of God.
3. Claiming authority and equality of God.

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit was attributing the works and miracles of Jesus to Satan and not the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:24-32). The unpardonable sin is the final rejection of the one who the Spirit points, that is Jesus.

I. His Family Thought He Was a Lunatic (3:20-21).

II. The Religious Leaders thought He Was Demonic (3:22-30).

III. His Followers Obeyed Him as Lord (3:31-35).

1. vs. 31-32- His Family Arrives.

Again Mary believed but his brothers thought he had lost his mind. They came to rescue Jesus. When they arrived Jesus is informed they are present.

2. vs. 33-35- Jesus makes an unexpected and strange question, "Who is my mother, or my brethren?"

Jesus knew who is family was and was not disrespectful or hostile toward his family. Jesus uses this to teach a spiritual truth to His followers.

(1). The words of the Lord Jesus were a rebuke to the worship of Mary. He did not dishonor her as His natural mother, but He did say that spiritual relationships take precedence over natural ones. It was more to Mary's credit to do the will of God than to be His mother.

(2). It disproves the teaching that Mary was a perpetual virgin. Jesus had brothers. He was Mary's firstborn, but other sons and daughters were born to her afterwards.

(3). Jesus put God's interests above natural ties. To His followers, He still says today.

(4). The passage reminds us that believers are bound by stronger cords to fellow-Christians than they are to blood-relations when those relatives are unsaved.

(5). Finally, it emphasizes the importance Jesus places on doing the will of God. Do I meet the standard? Am I His mother or brother?

Con:

1. Some of his friends and family thought He was a lunatic.

2. The religious elite accused him of being a liar and in union with Satan.

3. His followers who were in his family embraced him as Lord.

The eternal destiny of everyone is determined by what they do with Jesus.