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 LIFEGROUP: 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