

## THE GOSPEL OF MARK - 10

Liar, Lunatic or Lord

Mark 3:20-35

“Really a young atheist cannot guard his faith too carefully. Dangers await him on every side. In the Trinity term of 1929 I gave in and admitted that God was God and knelt and prayed that night...perhaps the most reluctant convert in all of England.” - C.S. Lewis

“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.” - C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

### THREE RESPONSES TO JESUS

1. Those who viewed him as Lord.

Mark 3:13 And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him.

Mark 1:16-20 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup> And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Mark 3:35 For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

2. Those who viewed him as a LUNATIC.

Mark 3:20 Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat.

Matthew 12:22-23 Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw.<sup>23</sup> And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?"

Mark 3:21 And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

Mark 3:31-32 And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him.<sup>32</sup> And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you."

Mark 3:33 And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"

### 3. Those who viewed him as a LIAR.

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

Mark 3:23-25 And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan?<sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.<sup>25</sup> And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

Mark 3:26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end.

Mark 3:27 But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

Mark 3:28-29 Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter,<sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"

Hebrews 6:4a (NLT) For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—

Hebrews 6:4a+b (NLT) For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven

Hebrews 6:4 (NLT) For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit,

Hebrews 6:5 (NLT) who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come—

Hebrews 6:6 (NLT) and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.

Hebrews 6:6 (NASB) and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

Hebrews 6:6c (NLT) by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.