

Is Jesus Really Lord of All, or Just Your Spiritual Life?

- Because what can be observe in evangelical Christianity is ... often we affirm Christ's lordship on Sunday while living as though other authorities ultimately determine reality the rest of the week.
- A woman in our congregation affirms the resurrection, reads her Bible faithfully, prays regularly.
 - But when it comes to her career, she operates entirely through institutional networking, strategic self-promotion, and professional maneuvering.
 - The assumption underlying her choices is clear: *career success depends on credentials, connections, and cultural positioning*—not on Christ's lordship.
- A man believes Jesus forgave his sins, celebrates his salvation, yet struggles with habitual sexual sin that he cannot overcome through willpower.
 - In his private battle, he acts as though this addiction, his struggle is merely psychological—a matter of personal discipline—rather than spiritual opposition subject to Christ's authority.
 - The assumption: *personal struggle is my responsibility alone; Christ's power doesn't actually operate here.*
- A young person trusts Christ for eternal life but shapes her entire public presence through social media algorithms, cultural trends, and peer validation.
 - The operating assumption: *meaning and identity are determined by what the world affirms, not by what Christ says about me.*

These aren't hypocritical people. They're sincere believers struggling with a **fragmented faith**—a faith that confesses Christ's lordship over the spiritual realm while practically acknowledging other lords over work, struggle, identity, and circumstance.

J Hudson Taylor, often called the Father of Modern Missions, is quoted as saying, "Jesus is either Lord of all, or he is not Lord at all!"

Is your Faith Fragmented

- Last Week – Crowd was aware of Jesus, even amazed the marveled as His gracious words
- Jesus knew their hearts – They wanted a Sign – They could not/would not believe He was the promised Messiah
- He claims to be the messiah and boom – They move from Amazement to Antagonism to Anger.
- They even went so far as trying to push him off the cliff –
 - The rejection was necessary so the Gospel could / would move to Gentiles
 - Supernatural protection - ...passed through the crowd.

Because of this Jesus Moves His Ministry Headquarters from Nazareth to Capernaum

Mark 1:21-22 - Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. ²² And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Jesus was described as "... a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people..." **Luke 24:19**

Jesus Demonstrates Authority with His Words

Mark is writing to a Roman Audience

He seeks to establish that Jesus is unlike any Roman Ruler –

- He sets out to prove that Jesus has authority, not Caesar. He alone has power and authority.
 - **Greek word eX-o-sia:** Authority as intrinsic power and right to command, not **delegated** or **borrowed**
 - It also means that you're teaching in such a way where you have **jurisdiction** over or you have rule above the people."

Jesus is unlike the rabbis

- Now, the scribes were learned men. They weren't ignorant. They knew the Law. They could debate nuance and application. So what's the contrast here?
- The contrast is in the *source* of authority
- When a scribe taught, he did so by citing other scribes. He'd say something like this: "Well, Rabbi Hill-el taught that..." or "According to the tradition of the elders..." or "The precedent established by Rabbi Shamm-i suggests..."
- **The scribe's authority came from citation.** He was essentially saying, "I'm not speaking from my own authority; I'm repeating what these respected voices before me have said. My credibility rests on their credibility. I'm standing on the shoulders of tradition."

Jesus doesn't quote any of those rabbis.

- He literally takes the word and says, you've heard it said, but I say... or
- You have heard it said, but here is what that really means...

"The farther information gets from the original source, the greater the risk of distortion.

Let me illustrate it this way – We've all played the Telephone Game – Started in Back...

- Gives the next persona a message, by the time it reaches the last person, it almost unrecognizable.
- The message gets lost in Translation and Transmission

Rick / Shane wrote a message

- Asks you to pass it to the next person, who passed it to the next person and so on to the front – How reliable would that be...much more so that doing that orally
- John – Eyewitness account – Matthew – Eyewitness account – Mark/Luke from Peter who was an eyewitness of His glory
- We have a sure word...It has authority!

2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2 Peter 1:19-21 - And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 5:17-28 - "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Jesus Demonstrates Authority with His Words

Jesus Demonstrates Authority with His Deeds

Words and Works – Prophet mighty in word and deed!

- **Two healings – One is Spiritual – One is Physical –**

Mark 1:23 - Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. ...

- The Bible teaches that 1/3 of the angel rebelled with Satan – Some are reserved in chains
- Notice where He is... "...in their synagogue..." – Mark does not explain the man's presence – One commentator said, "If this demon made his way into the first-century synagogue, we should not assume that our own churches are beyond their reach. (Akin, *Exalting Jesus: Mark*, p. 27)

Mark 1:23 - And he cried out, ²⁴ saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

Mark, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, points to the fact that the demons recognize Jesus

The demon acknowledged Jesus' **identity** – You are the Holy One of God

The demon acknowledged Jesus' **authority** – "Did you come to destroy us?"

- The demon knows Jesus has ultimate authority – notice what happens...

Mark 1:25 - ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet (muzzle) , and come out of him!" ²⁶ And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. ²⁷ Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with **authority** He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." ²⁸ And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.

Look at the dynamic here.

- The demon **recognizes** Jesus. The demon **speaks** accurately about Jesus. The demon **expresses terror** at Jesus' presence. **But the demon cannot resist Jesus.**
- **No contest!** First Round Knockout! The demon is no match for the Son of God.
- When Christ commands, the demon obeys. Not reluctantly. Not partially. Completely. The spirit convulses and departs. The man is freed. The opposition is overcome.
- This amazed the people – Jesus is not calling on heaven to overpower the demon – He is not appealing to a higher power – He has all power!
- Crowd responds – vv. 27 – This is new doctrine – even the unclean spirits obey

The moment Jesus' authoritative teaching is established, spiritual opposition erupts.

- And Mark wants us to see something crucial here: **Spiritual opposition is real, active, and personal.** It's not figurative. It's not symbolic. It's not psychological. It's not something we can explain away or reduce to natural causes.

Spiritual opposition is real and active, but is completely subordinate to Jesus' Authority!

We must seek a theological balance.

- On one side, some contemporary Christians **deny** demonic reality altogether. They don't believe in demons, so they have no framework for understanding spiritual warfare. They attribute all struggles to psychology or circumstance. And the result is that they lack categories for genuine spiritual oppression and the resources to address it.

- We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and power, rulers of the darkness of this world.
- But on the other side, some Christians swing to the opposite extreme. They see demons behind every difficulty. They live in a state of spiritual anxiety, constantly vigilant against satanic attack, assuming every temptation or struggle is demonic warfare. They pray in fear rather than faith. They live defensively rather than confidently. And while they affirm demonic reality, they effectively live as though demons are nearly omnipotent—vastly more powerful than they actually are.

Mark's passage cuts through both errors.

- Yes, demons are real. Yes, spiritual opposition is active and personal.
- Yes, there are genuine spiritual forces at work in the world. The man in the synagogue isn't struggling with mere psychology; he's genuinely possessed by a demonic entity. That's not myth. That's not ancient superstition. That's real.

But—and this is the crucial "but"—the demon is completely powerless before Christ's authority.

Jesus said...John 10:10 - The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

- **Abundant life is not found in stuff...power, possession, positions**
- **It is found in a growing relationship with God in the person of Jesus Christ, by the power of His Holy Spirit**
- I know there are some of you that struggle with sin or addiction – The hold they have on you are stronger than what willpower alone can overcome
- You've tried discipline, you've tried to resist, but to no avail – You feel enslaved.

Christ's authority is categorically superior to whatever opposes you.

I John 4:4 - You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

I Corinthians 15:57 - But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:37 - Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Battle Plan: Little to do with willpower and a lot to do with Surrender to Jesus daily!

James 4:6-7 - But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

The Armor of God is Defensive (Eph. 6) – WE have offensive weapons.

- Sword of the Spirit – word of God .
- Praying always in the Spirit

God Time – Bible Study and Prayer – Abiding in Christ (without me, Jesus said, you can do? What? NOTHING = including battling the enemy!

- "This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book" (D.L. Moody, many histories also credit John Bunyan (Pilgrim's Progress)

- This is a powerful reminder of the daily choice before every Christian: consistent, intentional engagement with God's Word is our spiritual nourishment and the very sword of the Spirit, empowering us to stand firm against the schemes of the enemy, discern His will, and walk in obedience, thereby guarding our hearts and minds
- Daily immersion in Scripture is not merely a **suggestion**; it is **essential** for spiritual growth and protection. Just as physical food nourishes the body, God's Word sustains our souls, providing wisdom, guidance, and strength to resist temptation and live a life pleasing to Him (Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Without this daily intake, we become vulnerable to sin's deceptive pull, which inevitably draws us further away from God and His truth.

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by Satan, what did He do? He quoted Scripture – “It is written”

Scripture Memory Enlightens our Walk – Psalm 119:105

- **Psalm 119:105** - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (next step only)

Scripture Memory Enables our Work – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped every good work.

Scripture Memory Expands our Witness – 1 Peter 3:15

- **1 Peter 3:15** - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

Scripture Memory Empowers our Warfare – Psalm 119:9-11

- **Psalm 119:9-11** - How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. ¹⁰ With whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! ¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.
- **Ephesians 6:17** - And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Prayer –

- Jesus said, **Matthew 26:41** - Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
- Model Prayer – **Matthew 6:13** - And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.
- **Hebrews 2:18** - For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.
- **1 Corinthians 10:13** - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Link to Justin's blog, You can find it on our blog page under God time Tab - [Here](#)

Notice what happens next...Spiritual Healing – Physical Healing

Mark 1:29 - ²⁹ Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once.

The Crowd is Amazed – News is Spreading... What does Jesus do?

- He does not stay around, bask in the glow of the moment – establish the movement- (*immediately, straightway*)

And notice the simplicity of what Jesus does.

Mark 1:31 - ³¹ So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them.

- He "**took her by the hand and lifted her up.**"
- It's physical contact. Jesus doesn't pray. He doesn't invoke any formula.
- He doesn't rebuke the fever as He rebuked the demon. He doesn't say any special words. He simply touches her and raises her up. That's it. That's the entire transaction.
- And what's the result? "**Immediately** the fever left her, and she served them" (NKJV).

Mark 1:31 - ³¹ So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her.

And she served them.

- Mark emphasizes not just the removal of the symptom but the restoration of *function*.
- She's not merely recovered; she's restored to her role. Her strength is returned.
- Her ability to work is back. She's fully operational, immediately.
- This matters because it tells us something important about how Mark understands healing. It's not abstract or spiritual in the sense of being disconnected from concrete physical reality. It's not a metaphorical restoration that leaves the body still broken.
- It's actual physical healing. The fever—which was real, which was debilitating her—is gone. And she's immediately capable of resuming her life's work.

And here's the theological weight of this moment: **Christ's lordship extends to the physical body, not merely to the spiritual realm.**

We see Jesus Authority on full display: Over Doctrine, Demons, Disease

I know some of you have recently experienced great loss

- Or you are battling Chronic Illness or disease – You have prayed for healing
- You have prayed Scripture, clinging to the promises, and yet ... nothing
- You may have asked the question: Why?

Does Jesus' Lordship extend to my situation / circumstance ... to my physical struggle or is my situation outside His Dominion.

We live in the Already/Not Yet Phase of Redemptive History

- Jesus came on the scene declaring the Kingdom of God is already here – Mark 1:14-15
- New Creation is Inaugurated – Jesus has **already** won the ultimate victory over death and disease because of His resurrection
- When people come to faith in Christ through repentance of sin, the Kingdom of God advances
- When you and I surrender areas of our lives to His control, the Kingdom advances.

But – We live in the “Not Yet” reality

- The Kingdom of God, while already inaugurated has yet to be fully expressed

- Disease still exists. Pain still persists. Death still comes. Not because Christ's authority is insufficient, but because we live in the interim between His resurrection and His Return to fully Establish His Kingdom
- **Revelation 21:4-5** - And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.
⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."
- *That* is the promise of complete physical restoration. But that's future. Now, we experience Christ's power operating *within* a world that still contains suffering.

So what does this mean practically for someone suffering physically?

Does Jesus still heal – Immediately through Healing, Gradually through Medicine, Ultimately through Heaven.

Mark 1:32 - ³² At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

Is Jesus really Lord of all, or just your spiritual life? **Personal Story - College**

Jesus is Lord of All – Not Lord at all

We've seen the answer Mark gives us – We have seen Jesus' authority

Identify one area where you've been fragmenting your allegiance to Christ.

- **One place where you've been treating His authority as real in theory but not operational in practice.**

Maybe it's your work.

- You've been using deceptive tactics to get ahead, justifying it as "just how the business world works."
- You know Christ teaches integrity, but you've compartmentalized His authority away from your professional life.

Maybe it's an addiction or compulsive sin.

- You've been trying to overcome it through willpower alone, through therapy, through medication, through accountability partners. These things aren't wrong—they have their place.
- But you haven't really invoked Christ's authority over it.

Maybe it's a relationship.

- Someone has wronged you, and you've been nursing the hurt, maintaining the distance, letting bitterness grow.
- You know Christ teaches forgiveness, but you've compartmentalized that teaching away from this particular relationship.

Maybe it's your body.

- You have a chronic condition, an illness, a physical limitation you've accepted as outside Christ's domain. You've made peace with it by deciding it's just how things are—medical reality, biological fact, nothing to do with Christ's authority.
- This week, you bring it to Him differently. Not with desperation, not with demands, but with genuine faith that His authority extends to your physical wholeness. You pray for healing, not knowing whether He'll grant it, but trusting that your body is within His domain. You may continue medical treatment, but you do so *within* the recognition that Christ is Lord over your flesh as well as your spirit.

Maybe it's your identity.

- You've let the world tell you who you are—defined by your productivity, your appearance, your social status, your achievements. You know Christ claims authority over your identity, that He says you're loved, accepted, valuable because you're His. But you've compartmentalized that truth away from how you actually live, how you actually think about yourself. This week, that changes. You reject one lie the world has told you about who you are. You replace it with Christ's truth about your identity. You live for one day from the conviction that you are loved and accepted in Christ, not from the conviction that you must prove your worth through performance.

For Some, you have never Called upon Jesus name for salvation with Repentance and Faith – Today is the day of Salvation.