



**Sermon Series:** Kingdom Ways Week 1

**Sermon Title:** Who is Jesus?

**Date:** 2/18/2024

**Mark 3:20-30**

**Big Idea: Know Why You Believe - What You Believe About Jesus**

C. S. Lewis put forth an argument that when it comes to identifying who Jesus is, there are only three options – Either He is a lunatic, a liar, or He is Lord. Or to put it another way - Was Jesus **Delusional, Deceptive, or Divine**

Mark 3:20-30 addresses all three of these possibilities. At this point in Jesus' ministry, things are in full swing. He had his disciples. He was casting demons out of people, healing people, and performing miracles. He had large crowds following Him. All of this got the attention of the religious leaders, and they began looking for a way to stop His momentum.

Was Jesus just a man who was

### **DELUSIONAL**

The argument here was that Jesus thought He was something He was not – namely, God. After all, even some in his own family thought he was out of His mind (**Mark 3:21**). They went to take charge of Him to seize Him and get Him away from the crowd. From their perspective, this was an intervention for His own good. They loved Him, but at this point, they didn't believe He was God. The New Testament is written in such a way that it is clear that Jesus was not delusional. Delusional people don't heal sick people, raise dead people, and cast out demons. They don't speak the way Jesus spoke, think the way He thought, or act the way Jesus acted. Jesus was marked by kindness, mercy, compassion, and sanity.

### **DECEPTIVE**

This view says that Jesus was not who He claimed to be. That He deceived people into thinking He was God. The Jewish religious leaders couldn't deny Jesus performing supernatural miracles, healing, and casting out demons. It was plainly evident that He was doing those things. So they came up with another strategy - a smear campaign to say that Jesus was lying and His power really came from Satan, not God. **Mark 3:22**

When we talk about whether Jesus was deceptive, it is essential to recognize that Jesus does not do any of the things you expect a lying religious leader to do and not do – seek power, wealth, etc. When He was on trial before the Sanhedrin, which was the supreme court of ancient Israel, they asked Jesus was asked if He was the Messiah, the Son of God, knowing His answer would condemn Him to death for blasphemy; Jesus answered in **Mark 14:62**.

In **Mark 3:28-29** Jesus says there is a sin that cannot be forgiven. This unforgivable sin that Jesus talks about is one that a true believer in Jesus Christ cannot commit. The context of this situation will help us understand what the sin of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is. The religious leaders have witnessed the miracles of Jesus firsthand. They categorized Jesus and His power as coming from Satan. There was nothing Jesus could do to show them otherwise because no matter what He did, they would continually put Him in that category. In short, they saw the plain work of the Holy Spirit and resisted Him. They are beyond repentance by their own choice. Blasphemy against the Spirit is not a one-time occurrence - it is a deliberate, continual resisting of the Holy Spirit's witness about Jesus Christ and His invitation to turn to Jesus until death ends all opportunity to do so.

## DIVINE

Jesus knew He is God. (**John 10:30, John 8:58, John 14:9**) If that's true, then that changes everything. It takes the words of Jesus and elevates them to absolute truth. Jesus said He is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one gets to the Father except through Him.

Jesus came on a rescue mission to save us from an eternity separated from God into everlasting torment. He left heaven and came to earth to live as a human. He lived a perfect life – never sinning and ultimately willingly died on the cross as a sacrifice or payment for your sins. Three days later, He rose from the dead, and throughout that process, He fulfilled hundreds of prophecies about Himself in the Old Testament.

Jesus' own family did not believe He was God at the beginning of His ministry, but eventually, they became some of His greatest proponents. Two of Jesus's brothers, James and Jude, wrote books in the New Testament. James went on to lead the church in Jerusalem.

What changed for them? They saw the resurrected Jesus. His apostles, who scattered when Jesus was arrested and crucified, became unstoppable witnesses after they saw the risen Christ. Not even torturous deaths could get them to betray Him. The resurrection changed everything. If you are a follower of Jesus, you know the resurrection changed your life too.

### Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What do you perceive is the most common view of Jesus among non-Christians?**
- **Do you believe Jesus is Lord? Why?**
- **Some people were eyewitnesses of Jesus' miracles, yet they did not believe He was God. How does that knowledge impact you when you witness to others, and they reject Jesus?**
- **Have you ever had a concern that you committed an unpardonable sin? Explain**