



1

(Title Slide)

- Many of us have said in recent months, “Who does she think she is?” or “Who does he think he is?”
- Whether it refers to government or church officials, we struggle when we think they have over-reached in their authority.
- I too believe we need to stand against overreach through the ballot box, the courts, individual and group protests.

TR: But what amazes me the most is that most of

**America is not offended by the incredible authority
claims of . . .**

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

2

. . . Jesus!

-- His claims are so over-reaching as to be blasphemous

. . . if He were not truly God.

-- Why are most Americans not offended by Jesus?

TR: Perhaps because instead of wrestling with the real Jesus, we have re-packaged Him in more culturally acceptable ways.

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

**Prozac Jesus?
Vacation Planner Jesus?
Suggestion Box Jesus?
District Attorney Jesus?
Match.com Jesus?
Neiman Marcus Jesus?**

3

Paul David Tripp in his daily devotion called New Mercies forces his readers to examine what kind of Jesus we are looking for?

-- Maybe too many pastors are proclaiming “Another Jesus” as Paul says in 2 Cor 11:4

-- Prozac Jesus, who will make you feel better and make life easier?

-- Vacation Planner Jesus, who will take you to a place where life is more pleasurable, certainly without suffering?

TR: (NEXT SLIDE SAME)

3

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

**Prozac Jesus?
Vacation Planner Jesus?
Suggestion Box Jesus?
District Attorney Jesus?
Match.com Jesus?
Neiman Marcus Jesus?**

4

- Suggestion Box Jesus, whose law is more advice than command, allowing us to have 'self-rule?'**
- District Attorney Jesus, who'll get all those people who've made our lives hard?**
- Match.com Jesus, who will give us someone to love? And someone who will love us.**
- Neiman Marcus Jesus, who will deliver all our golden dreams?**

TR: When I consider how little offense we see in our society against the radical claims of Jesus, it seems like

Marx might have been right . . .

4

"Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people".

- Karl Marx

5

. . . when he wrote (what has been translated as) . . .

READ SLIDE

-- I am radically opposed to religion. It is an opiate of many, taken to make them more comfortable in the kingdom of this world.

-- But the real historical Jesus came proclaiming the kingdom of God. He calls us to something beyond a sigh.

TR: Jesus is not so easily written off as a good teacher or moral influence. Especially not in the portion of Mark's

Gospel we are looking at today.

5

3:7-12 Summary - Galilee
3:13-19 Appointing the 12
3:20-21 Family: Crazy
3:22-30 Scribes: Demonic
3:31-35: True Family

6

We will look at: REVIEW SLIDE

TR: Let's begin with the summary paragraph that captures what's been happening in the north country surrounding the lake, the Sea of Galilee.

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

**EXCITEMENT
for the crowds**

7

**The biographical information we find in answer to the question, “Who is this Jesus?” tells us that He provided .
..READ SLIDE**

TR: Jesus provoked controversy and then . . .

Mark 3:7-8

Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and **a great crowd** followed, from Galilee and Judea ⁸and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When **the great crowd** heard all that he was doing, they came to him.

ESV

8

READ SLIDE

- **3:7-12 = summary statement of the ministry thus far in Galilee**
- **emphasis is on great crowds -- coming from north to south (to Edom), from east to north-west**
- **though the Decapolis and Samaria are missing, it seems to be a summary like, "From Kalamazoo to the Soo, and from Holland to the Thumb."**
- **In our day, we would say, "Jesus was TRENDING"**

TR: Even though Jesus "withdrew", the people still

found him.

8

And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him **because of the crowd**, lest they crush him, ¹⁰for he had healed many, so that all who had **diseases** pressed around him to touch him.

ESV

9

READ SLIDE

- Had a boat ready so could concentrate on preaching and teaching
- He had healed MANY
- DISEASES is literally “scourges” . . . perhaps reflective of many thinking the maladies were seen as divine chastisement. (Witherington)

TR: As before Jesus is not only healing these scourges of disease, but also dealing with those enslaved by demons . . .

Mark 3:11-12

And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." ¹²And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

ESV

10

READ SLIDE

- The demons probably are calling out Jesus' true identity in an effort to control Him.**
- But Jesus has authority over them and does not want their true statements uttered . . . not by them and not at this time in His ministry.**

TR: Who is this Jesus? He is the One Who is EXCITEMENT for the CROWDS. He is also the . . .

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

**ELECTOR
of the Twelve**

11

READ SLIDE

TR: Begin in verse 13

Mark 3:13-15

And he went up on the mountain and **called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him.** ¹⁴And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach ¹⁵and have authority to cast out demons.

ESV

12

READ SLIDE

- “the mountain” probably is to be reminiscent of the setting in which Israel was constituted as a people (Ex 18-19) – Mt. Sinai.
- Jesus choose with absolute authority, as He desired . . . and they followed.

TR: Note that He appointed . . .

Mark 3:13-15

And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. ¹⁴And he **appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles)** so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach ¹⁵and have authority to cast out demons.

ESV

13

... 12.

-- By doing so, Jesus is making a claim on Israel, the people of God.

-- These “apostles” were commissioned representatives with authority to proclaim His message and exercise His authority in the spiritual realm.

TR: Mark lists the 12 ...

Mark 3:16-17

He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter);
¹⁷James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder);

ESV

14

... beginning with the inner circle of 3, Peter, James, and John.

-- Simon = Peter = Cephas (Aramaic for Rock)

TR: We don't know too much about many of the others

...

Mark 3:18-19

Andrew, and Philip, and
Bartholomew, and Matthew, and
Thomas, and James the son of
Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and
Simon the Zealot, ¹⁹and Judas
Iscaiot, who betrayed him.

ESV

15

... though it looks like there were maybe 3 sets of brothers.

TR: The last two . . .

Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and **Simon the Zealot,¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.**

ESV

16

... tell us of Simon the Zealot.

-- could mean he was full of zeal, but more likely part of the nationalistic movement.

-- Judas, the betrayer, was from “a place called Karioth” (Iscariot)

-- (Witherington) “it is also possible that this label indicates he was one of the sicarii or dagger men, the extreme faction and hit men among the revolutionary party.”

TR: Who is this Jesus? Excitement for the crowds,

Electors of the 12, and . . .

16

Ben Witherington III. The Gospel of Mark: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary (Kindle Location 2289). Kindle Edition. Who is this Jesus? Excitement for the Crowds; Electors of the 12, and . . .

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

**EMBARRASSMENT
to his family**

17

. . . an . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 20 . . .

Mark 3:20-21

Then he went home, **and the crowd gathered again**, so that they could not even eat. ²¹And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”

ESV

18

READ SLIDE

- [home] = likely Peter and Andrew's house in Capernaum.
- Again the crowds are excited to be with Jesus.
- The pressure is such that He does not even have time to eat.

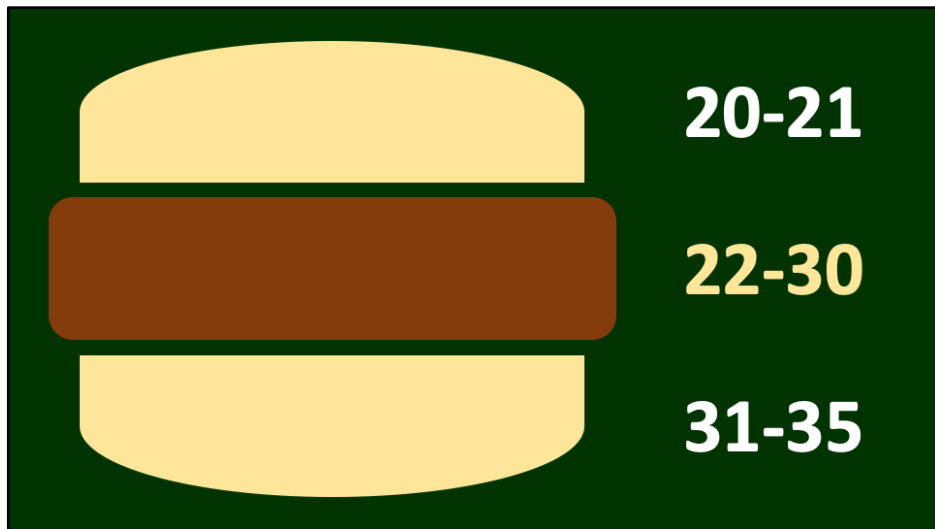
TR: The response of His family . . .

Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹And when his family heard it, they **went out to seize him**, for they were saying, **“He is out of his mind.”**

ESV

- ... they went out to “seize” (= arrest) Him.
- [He is out of his mind] = either for the pace he was keeping or for the claims He was making.
- In favor of the claims = cf. John 7 – “For not even his brothers believed him.”
- EX: family honor when your freshman brother is doing dumb things that makes you look bad as his senior sister. “You’re embarrassing me!”

TR: Also in favor of His family thinking He was beside Himself in His claims is the structure of our passage.



20

It has been compared to a sandwich.

-- The verses we just read, 20-21, are about His biological family.

-- Then we move to vv 22-30, about the judgment of the scribes from Jerusalem.

-- This gives time for the family to move from Nazareth to Capernaum . . . and for the tension to built for the reader.

-- The ending verses of the chapter then give us the other part of the sandwich . . . again Jesus biological family.

**TR: Excitement for the crowds; Elector of the 12;²⁰
Embarrassment to the family; and now . . .**

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

**ENIGMA
to the unbelievers**

21

an . . . READ SLIDE

TR: The middle part of the sandwich begins in verse 22

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.”

ESV

22

READ SLIDE

-- [scribes] = official investigators from the capital.

TR: As they witnessed Jesus, they did not dispute the miracles and casting out of demons . . .

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.”

ESV

23

. . . they decided He was doing it by the very power of Satan himself. Who gave Him that authority?

TR: Jesus responds to these “carefully trained legal specialists” (Lane)

Mark 3:23-26

And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end.

ESV

24

READ SLIDE

-- Jesus' first argument against their conclusion is that it makes no sense that He is in collusion with Satan, because then Satan would be working against Satan.

-- This is the passage of Scripture that Abraham Lincoln used to address that a nation divided would not stand.

TR: Jesus' second argument is that He is able to cast out demons because He is stronger than Satan . . .

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.

ESV

25

READ SLIDE

TR: Jesus then moves from the defensive to the offensive, in verse 28

Mark 3:28-30

“Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— ³⁰for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

ESV

26

It begins “Truly, I say to you” – literally, “Amen, I say to you”

-- First of 13 “amens” in Mark

-- Jesus “solemnly guarantees the truth of what He is about to say.” (Cranfield)

-- What does Jesus think is so important? . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Sins will be forgiven but . . .

Mark 3:28-30

“Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, **29but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin**” — ³⁰for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

ESV

27

- ... not the sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit.
- This blasphemy is the “decisive and firm refusal to understand who Jesus is” (Bock)
- It is “the conscious and deliberate rejection of the saving power and grace of God” (Lane)
- It is “the ongoing, continual rejection of the witness of the Holy Spirit to the divinity and saviorhood of Christ” (Hughes)

TR: These scribes were blaspheming . . .

Mark 3:28-30

“Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— ³⁰for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

ESV

28

READ SLIDE (verse 30).

- Unpardonable sin = comparable to hardened hearts (cf. v. 22 “kept repeatedly saying” He is possessed . . .)**
- If you worry that you have committed it, then in likelihood you have not.**

TR: Who is this Jesus? Excitement for the crowds; Elector of the 12; Embarrassment to the family; Enigma to unbelievers; and, most hopefully . . .

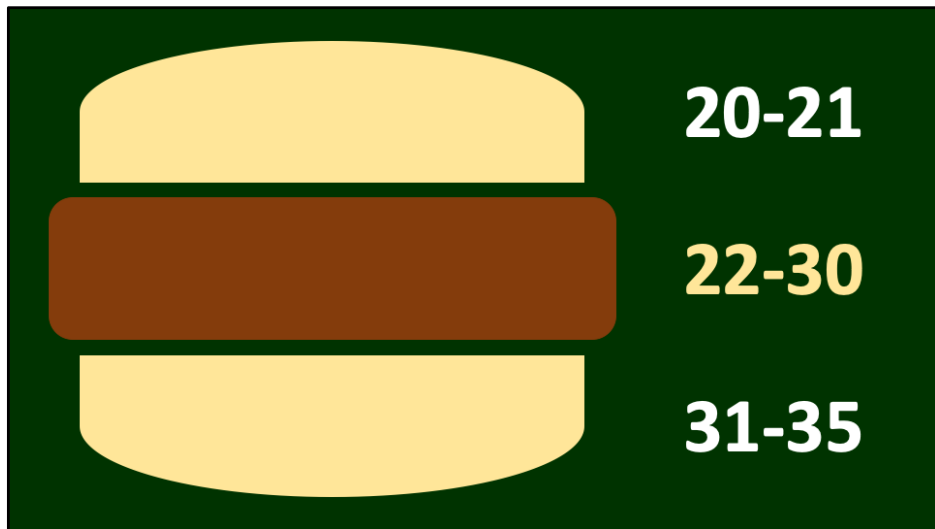
WHO IS THIS JESUS?

**EMBRACED
by obedient believers**

29

READ SLIDE

TR: Remember the sandwich . . .



30

Mark is showing us that there is something very comparable to how the family looked at Jesus at this point in history and how the scribes from Jerusalem did.

TR: Time has elapsed, and the family arrives.

Mark 3:31-32

And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. ³²And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you."

ESV

31

READ SLIDE

- Side point: Mary had other children is the most likely meaning.**
- Some suggest Joseph was a widower with kids before marrying Mary; or that these are Jesus' cousins.**
- These options have no Biblical evidence in support.**

TR: The word made it through the crowd that Jesus family had arrived. His response at first seems harsh . . .

Mark 3:33-35

And he answered them, **“Who are my mother and my brothers?”**

³⁴And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

ESV

32

READ SLIDE (Highlight only)

-- We know from John 7 that His brothers did not initially believe.

-- But James, His brother becomes a key leader in Jerusalem and the author of a NT book.

-- Jude seems to be another brother.

-- And we know that Mary does come to saving faith.

TR: So why does Jesus in a sense push His family away?

Mark 3:33-35

And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"
³⁴And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "**Here are my mother and my brothers!** ³⁵**For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.**"

ESV

33

**Because they too needed to do the will of God . . . and receive Jesus as the Christ, Son of God . . .
-- . . . as true God come to be the Savior of humankind.**

TR: So the radically divisive question that seems all but forgotten in most churches is . . .

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

34

READ SLIDE

TR: We've seen that He is . . .

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

35

EXCITEMENT for the crowds
ELECTOR of the Twelve
EMBARRASSMENT to his family
ENIGMA to the unbelievers
EMBRACED by obedient believers

READ SLIDE

TR: This section of Scripture, when taken together, seems to provide fuel to think about this question with a version of CS Lewis' Trilemma.

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

LEGEND?

LUNATIC?

LIAR?

LORD?

36

READ SLIDE

TR: CS Lewis talks about the three options of what to do with Jesus. But some others who are opposed to Christ have raised the option of LEGEND?

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

LEGEND?

37

Perhaps this Jesus is only make-believe. He is like Batman or Superman or Atlas or some other figment of imagination.

-- Most think that there was a person at the root of the story but that the early church made up the legend because they needed some OPIUM FOR THE MASSES.

TR: (SAME SLIDE)

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

LEGEND?

38

-- BUT this text weighs against the LEGEND theory. In addition to the immense number and close dated manuscripts (we have what they wrote) . . . we also see that:

-- Legends don't include such derogatory things being said about the hero's family.

-- Legends don't portray the hero having such bad judgment as to select his own betrayer.

-- (What they wrote is the truth, even when it wasn't always "pretty.")

TR: Jesus is not a legend . . .

38

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

LEGEND? DEvised

39

... that was devised by the early church as some religious opiate.

TR: Our text also addresses the notion that Jesus was a .
..

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

LEGEND?

LUNATIC?

40

... lunatic?

-- The family came to seize Jesus . . . why? Because they thought He was out of His mind.

-- They thought He was insane, more literally, "out of His wits."

TR: But the reliable documents including Mark's Gospel tell us of a Person Who claimed radical things, but whose teaching and life demonstrated that He was not .

..

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

LEGEND?

LUNATIC?
DELUDED

41

... deluded.

TR: Today, lots of people want to say Jesus was a good man . . . but . . . Yet they don't seem to consider that His radical claims to authority, if they are not true, is the work of a . . .

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

LEGEND?

LUNATIC?

LIAR?

42

... liar!

-- Isn't that in essence what the scribes were saying?

-- Jesus was proclaiming the kingdom of God, saying the time is fulfilled . . .

-- . . . but in reality He was in collusion with Satan, seeking to deceive people.

TR: Jesus responded powerfully with the great logic of the divided house argument to make clear He was not a liar whose power was really . . .

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

LEGEND?

LUNATIC?

LIAR? DEMONIC

43

. . . Demonic.

-- If the evidence is that we have reliable historical documents, Jesus is more than a mere legend.

-- He gives no evidence of being a lunatic, just a person with radical claims.

-- He makes clear He is no liar empowered by the demonic.

TR: So “Who is this Jesus?” He is . . .

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

LEGEND?

LUNATIC?

LIAR?

LORD?

44

. . . the Lord.

-- In our passage we see . . .

-- His inherent claim to authority in appointing the 12.

-- The claim that His family is made up of people who do the will of God.

TR: (SAME SLIDE)

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

LEGEND?

LUNATIC?

LIAR?

LORD?

45

- Jesus' family did not immediately buy-in with faith in His authority, but we know from the rest of the NT documents that . . .
- Jesus' family would include James, His brother (Galatians 1:19), Mary, His mother (Acts 1:14) . . .
- . . . Jude calls himself a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James (Jude 1:1, his name found in Matthew 13:55-56) . . .
- . . . would all become members of the true family of God.

TR: Jesus was not . . .

45

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

LEGEND? **DEVISED**

LUNATIC? **DELUDED**

LIAR? **DEMONIC**

LORD?

46

... READ SLIDE ...

TR: the only option left is He is ...

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

LEGEND? **DEVI**SED

LUNATIC? **DE**LUDED

LIAR? **DE**MONIC

LORD? **DE**O

47

... He is DEO ... God!

(Story of Ben Haden with dying man – Hughes, p. 90-91)

-- The unpardonable sin ... having the knowledge of Jesus but firmly and resolutely rejecting it.

-- Even if today is the first time you've ever heard anything about Jesus, you now know that you only have four choices.

-- Believing in God; living by high morals; trying to do right ... but not trusting Jesus as DEO ... as LORD ...

-- ... is saying He was merely a lunatic when He pointed out our need for a Savior ...

**-- . . . that He was merely a liar dispensing the 47
demonic opiate of religion . . .**

**-- . . . or that He was merely a pleasant but poorly
constructed myth.**