



PART 2: THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

FOUNDING PASTOR KEN WERLEIN
MARK 2:2-12

This week, we are in part 2 of our series, “Who is Jesus?” There is no other more important question we can ask ourselves. And it is a question we must ask. This week, the primary piece of evidence we will use in our quest for an answer will be the authority of Jesus.

1. Jesus forces people to make a choice. Read the following C.S. Lewis quote from his book, Mere Christianity. What are the thoughts and reflections that come immediately to mind after you read it?

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 patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

2. Read **Mark 2:1-12**. By this point in the story, Jesus' fame is spreading (see Mark 1:21-45).
 - a. What did Jesus observe that caused him to conclude that the men were faithful? In other words, how was their faith demonstrated?
 - b. What is significant about the order of their demonstration of faith and the forgiveness that Jesus granted?
 - c. Why did Jesus' statement of forgiveness upset the scribes?
 - d. How did the crowd react to the healing and why?

3. Read **Daniel 7:13-14**. Describe what the title “Son of Man” means based on this passage, and what makes Jesus’ use of this title for himself significant? (See Study Deeper)

4. Ken shared how many (if not all!) of us are tempted to be more like the crowd or the scribes instead of the faithful men.
 - a. What did Jesus observe that caused him to conclude that the men were faithful? In other words, how was their faith demonstrated?

 - b. What is significant about the order of their demonstration of faith and the forgiveness that Jesus granted?

Challenge: Based on your answer to the last question, what action step do you need to take?

Prayer: In Matthew 10:39, Jesus said, “whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” This truth is expressed in Christian baptism, where we publicly put to death our old selves and are raised to new life in Christ. However, it’s often terrifying to completely surrender our old lives to Jesus because, as Pastor Ken expressed in this sermon, we don’t fully trust that Jesus is who he says he is. Take a few minutes to pray in silence and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of your life in which you have not fully surrendered to Jesus. Ask the Spirit to reveal where the distrust is coming from. Then, partner up and share with one other person what the Spirit revealed to you and pray for one another.

STUDY DEEPER

Watch the “Son of Man” video from The Bible Project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6cWEcqxhII>