

Palm Sunday: Undecided
Indecision becomes decision over time
Mark 3, Luke 4 and Hebrews 1
Who is Jesus to you?

The Man

Friend of Sinners and Forgiver of Sins.

Mark 2:1-12: Jesus healed the man lowered through the roof.
Mark 2:13-17: Jesus hung out with his friends.
Mark 3:1–6: Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath.
Mark 3:7-12: A crowd began following Jesus.

Jesus produced three primary reactions:
— Hatred — Terror — Curiosity.

**There were no ambivalent opinions about Jesus recorded anywhere in scripture.

In the mid-nineteenth century the Scottish Christian preacher “Rabbi” John Duncan (1796-1870) formulated what he called a “*trilemma*.”

Christ either [1] deceived mankind by conscious fraud, or [2] He was Himself deluded and self-deceived, or [3] He was Divine.
There is no getting around this *trilemma*.

According to Duncan, there is no need for us to prove that Jesus of Nazareth is God. All we have to do is determine whether He is a lunatic or a liar.
If He is neither, He must be the Son of God.

The argument can be formulated as follows:
— If Jesus were not Lord, he would be a liar or a lunatic.
— Jesus was neither a liar nor a lunatic.
— Therefore, Jesus is Lord.

He was polarizing. People had to make a choice:
He said things like, “*Before Abraham was, I am*” (John 8:58),
and, “*I and the Father are one*” (John 10:30).

Who does the Bible say That Jesus is?

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being,

sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had ***provided purification for sins***, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Hebrews 1:1–3

Music

Sermon Part 2

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The Message

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

*All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips.
“Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.... Luke 4:16-22*

All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way. Luke 4:28-30

Jesus Own Family Had Come to Mixed Conclusions:

11 Whenever the impure spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.” 12 But he gave them strict orders not to tell others about him.....

20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his

disciples were not even able to eat. 21 When his family^[b] heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

22 And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

Mark 3:11-12 and 20-22

Mark 3:11 **Jesus was called Lord** (Son of God)

*Whenever the impure spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are **the Son of God.**" But he gave them strict orders not to tell others about him.*

Mark 3:20 **Jesus' family thinks he lost his mind.**

*Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "**He is out of his mind.**"*

Mark 3:22: **Pharisees call Jesus a liar**

*And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "**He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.**"*

It's Easter Week.

What have you decided?

— A disciple is a follower of Christ.

****Are you following?**