



JUDGING JESUS
MARK 3:20-30

You must admit the times are crazy in our political world today

- It is not a whole lot different than the times of Abraham Lincoln



The People at the Polls 1860-1864

- “The illustrious Honest Old Abe has continued during the last week to make a fool of himself and to mortify and shame the intelligent people of this great nation. His speeches have demonstrated the fact that although originally a Herculean rail splitter and more lately a whimsical story teller and side splitter, he is no more capable of becoming a statesman, nay, even a moderate one, than the braying ass can become a noble lion.

The People at the Polls 1860-1864

- People now marvel how it came to pass that Mr. Lincoln should have been selected as the representative man of any party. His weak, wishy-washy, namby-pamby efforts, imbecile in matter, disgusting in manner, have made us the laughing stock of the whole world. The European powers will despise us because we have no better material out of which to make a President.

The People at the Polls 1860-1864

- The truth is, Lincoln is only a moderate lawyer and in the larger cities of the Union could pass for no more than a facetious pettifogger. Take him from his vocation and he loses even these small characteristics and indulges in simple twaddle which would disgrace a well bred school boy.”
- Written as Abraham Lincoln approached Washington by train for his 1861 presidential inauguration

This is exactly the way it was for Jesus his entire years of ministry

- **Matthew 16:13-14** NIV 13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”
- This is the question we will be examining today, how did people look at and judge Jesus
- **Mark 3:20-30**

I want you to feel the intensity of this time

- Jesus was wildly popular with the common person, outcast, you might say the losers of society
- Not so much with those well connected in politics or religion
- He threatened the norm in society and religion and when you do that people begin to feel threaten and concerned

I want you to feel the intensity of this time

- We say we want to stir up Church and Religion, to do something new and different and wonderful, but do we really?
- You will find in our verses today three views of Jesus
- I find it curious, these are the same views today

He is weak and in need of help

- Starting in verse 20 through verse 35 is called a Sandwich Verse
 - Mark begin a story, starts another one midway through the first then completes his first story at the end
 - This was literary style then where the author was basically saying, “What is the same about these two stories or events?”

He is weak and in need of help

- The news of Jesus has reached his family in Nazareth and they are not pleased
- He is drawing abnormally large crowds around him
 - Drawing unwanted attention to his family when it was not wanted or desired
- He is challenging the religious authorities
 - He is embarrassing the family with his statements and outright lack of obedience to Jewish traditions

He is weak and in need of help

- He is not thinking straight. Won't even take time to eat.
 - Something is wrong with Jesus and we as his loving family need to take control of him
 - We need to take him back to Nazareth and get him fixed and thinking right again
 - We need an intervention

He is weak and in need of help

- Who came from the family?
 - Jesus' mother, Mary, his brothers and from other verses probably uncles and cousins
 - Mary knows who Jesus is but much like John the Baptist, Jesus is not acting like the Messiah they expected

He is weak and in need of help

- **John 7:5 NIV** 5 For even his brothers didn't believe in him.
- I believe this was why Jesus' father is dead.
 - Jewish people would have been turned away from Jesus if he did not respect his father and return home as demanded

He is weak and in need of help

- We hear it this way today, “Christianity is an old weak religion. It must be made current to be relevant to the people of today.”
- Some say our nation’s constitution is a “living document”
 - We must look at it through the eyes of today and not the intent of the founders when it was written
 - To become more like other nations

He is weak and in need of help

- We hear Christianity today like this
 - It's all about God love, grace and acceptance of all people
 - It's about helping take care of people and social issues and acceptance

He is weak and in need of help

- This is nothing about sin, need for forgiveness, sanctification
- It's all about mankind and very little about God and his demands for righteousness
- So, in other words, Jesus needs help today to become the Messiah we want him to be, rather than the Messiah he is and we need

He is a lunatic and needs stopped

- Now comes the Jewish Mafia from Jerusalem
- These were religious lawyers steeped in Jewish Law, customs and tradition
- These would be like the seminary professionals traveling from the city to a rural church 120 miles away to confront an upstart Sunday School teacher who suddenly had a vast following

He is a lunatic and needs stopped

- To the religious structure this has all the marking of a cult leader
 - They had seen it before, though not to this level
 - Here is a person without any real education or training
 - Grew up in obscurity
 - Ministering in some out-of-the-way place
 - Now saying he has authority from God

He is a lunatic and needs stopped

- To the religious structure this has all the marking of a cult leader
 - Saying some really outrageous things about God's Kingdom
 - The uneducated are following him in masses
 - He takes no leadership from the religious structure

He is a lunatic and needs stopped

- Jesus is crazy, cannot be trusted and needs to be stopped/silenced
- They cannot deny Jesus is doing miracles, but since he is not playing properly it cannot be from God
- They come to town and immediately begin tarnishing Jesus' name and ministry
- No mention of them talking to Jesus or watching him heal or watching him love

He is a lunatic and needs stopped

- Not God but Beelzebub, the prince of demons, Satan
 - Beelzebub = Lord of the flies, dung
 - Worthless, will end in nothing as all the others

He is a lunatic and needs stopped

- **Vs. 23** Jesus called them to himself
 - They were doing this behind Jesus' back, but Jesus speaks to them face to face
 - He does not lash out at them for being idiots, but lovingly uses simple logic

He is a lunatic and needs stopped

- This is what happens when you use logic with those who already have their minds made up – silence
 - A house divided can't stand and if Satan is driving out Satan's work it will not stand
 - These demon possessed people were Satan's property

He is a lunatic and needs stopped

- You can't take something that belongs to a strong man unless you have more power and authority and can bind him, then you can take his possession
- Hear Jesus say, "I am stronger than Satan and I can bind him and take his possessions"
- The religious leaders were actually saying Satan is more loving than God because he set the demon possessed free and God would not.

He is a lunatic and needs stopped

- If you take a look at culture today the top thing on their to-do list is to silence Christianity
 - They have taken it out of schools, government, courtrooms, and are trying to take it from our churches and homes
- They are saying, “These types of people are lunatics and need to be silenced.”

He is God that gives us what we wanted on earth in heaven

- Look that point over closely because some you misread and/or misheard it
 - In heaven as it was on earth

He is God that gives us what we wanted on earth in heaven

- Praise God for **vs. 28 NLT** “I tell you the truth, all sin and blasphemy can be forgiven
 - I tell you the truth is “Amen Amen!”, spoken twice for emphasis
- All sin/blasphemy can be forgiven, it is there and provided for you

He is God that gives us what we wanted on earth in heaven

- There is a big but coming in **vs. 29 NLT** but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. This is a sin with eternal consequences.
- **John 6:44 NIV** “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

He is God that gives us what we wanted on earth in heaven

- You cannot and will not come to Jesus unless the Holy Spirit draws you to him
- Now if you keep saying no to the draw of the Holy Spirit you will get to the point where your feeler is calloused and you will not be able to discern his draw upon your life

He is God that gives us what we wanted on earth in heaven

- When it comes to Jesus, what your will is on earth continues in heaven and you will hear God say, “As you wanted on earth, so it will be for eternity.”
- Pharaoh wanted to harden his heart against God and the nation of Israel and God granted his request
- If your heart is calloused, then you better hope someone is praying for your salvation or you will be eternally lost

Summary

- The last great question Jesus asked his disciples in Matthew is:
 - **Matthew 16:15 NIV** “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”
 - However, your answer that sets your life in motion eternally, so you better choose carefully

Summary

- **Matthew 16:16 NIV** Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”
 - How do you answer this question this morning?
 - Liar, lunatic or Lord?

The Guardian – Christianity when properly understood, is a religion for losers

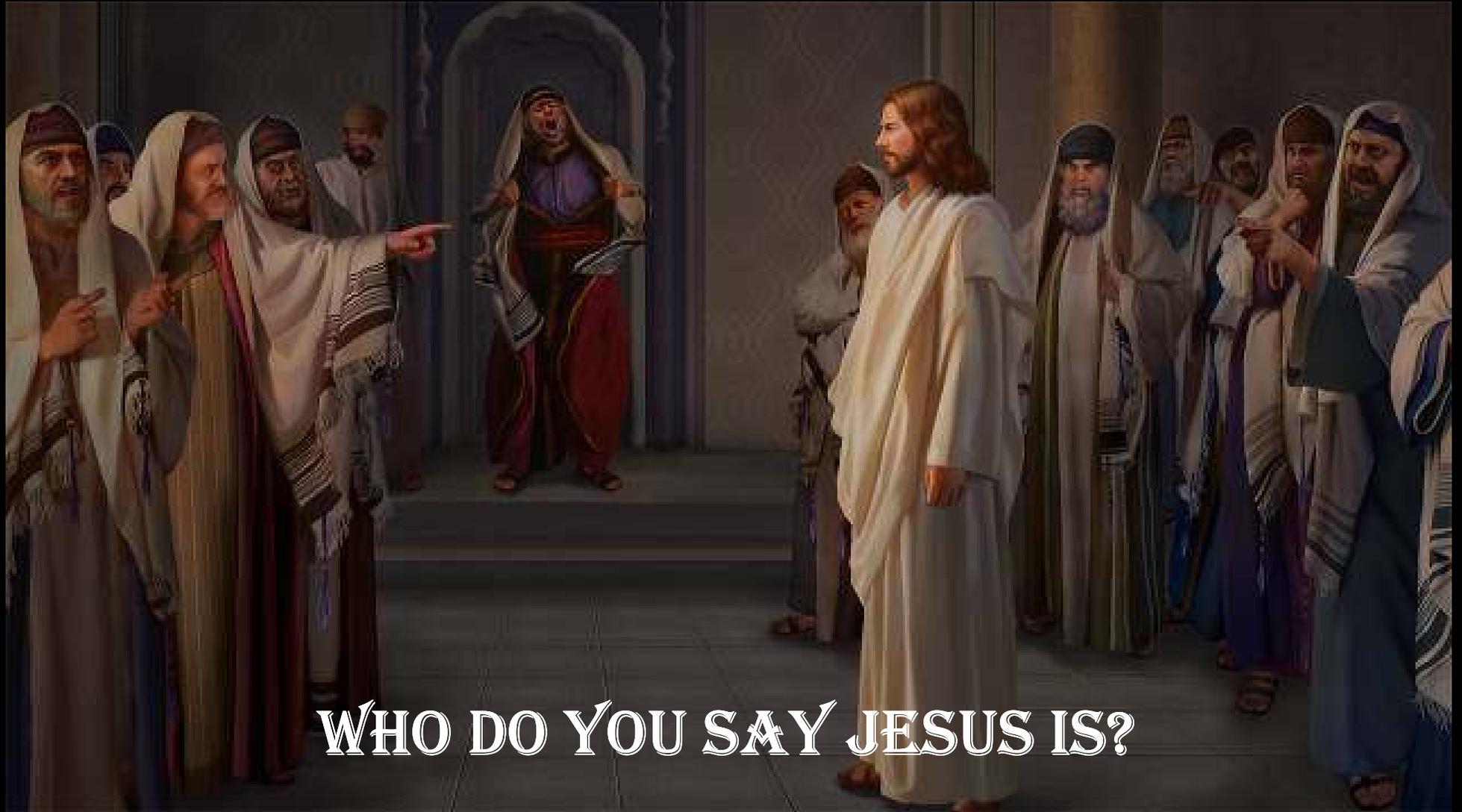
- But here's the thing. The Christian story, like the best sort of terrifying psychoanalysis, strips you down to nothing in order for you to face yourself anew.

The Guardian – Christianity when properly understood, is a religion for losers

- For it turns out that losers are not despised or rejected, not ultimately. In fact, losers can discover something about themselves that winners cannot ever appreciate – that they are loved and wanted simply because of who they are and not because of what they achieve.

The Guardian – Christianity when properly understood, is a religion for losers

- That despite it all, raw humanity is glorious and wonderful, entirely worthy of love. This is revealed precisely at the greatest point of dejection. The resurrection is not a conjuring trick with bones. It is a revelation that love is stronger than death, that human worth is not indexed to worldly success.



WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?