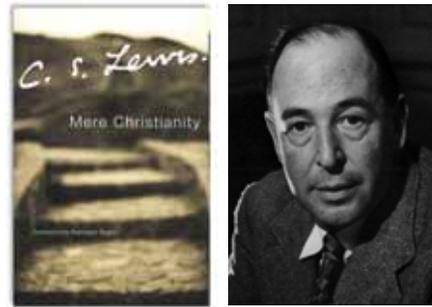


Jesus: Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?

Mark 3:20-35

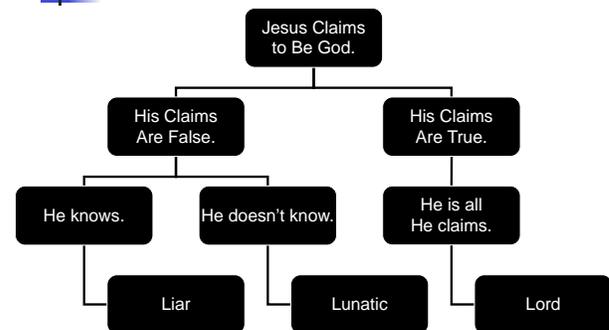
C.S. Lewis's Trilemma



Mark's Technique

- 20-21 – Jesus' family leaves to come to Capernaum.
- 22-30 – the Pharisees attack Jesus.
- 31-35 – Jesus' family arrives at the house where He's teaching.

Three Basic Alternatives



The Three Options

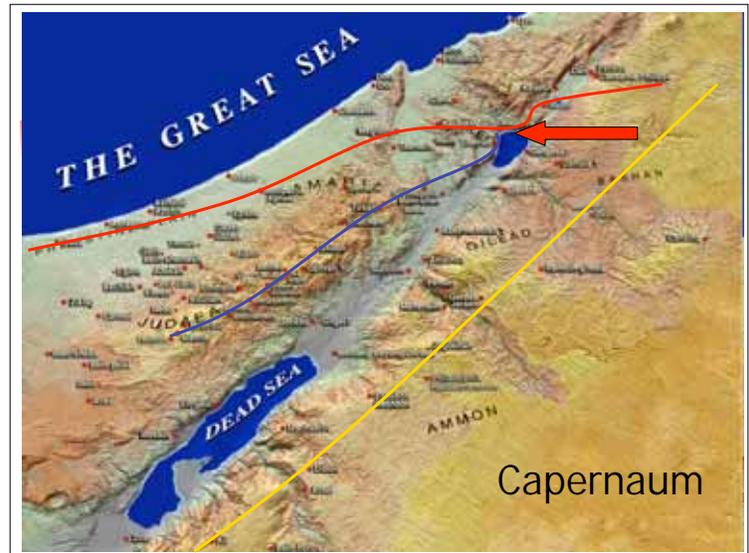
- **I. A Deluded Lunatic (20-21)**
 - 21 – "When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses.""
- **II. A Demonic Liar (22-30)**
 - Two explicit accusations...
 - 1) "He is possessed by Beelzebul."
 - 2) "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."
- **III. The Divine Lord (31-35)**

III. The Divine Lord (31-35)

- A. The Unusual Circumstances (31-32)

The Long Day

- The healing of a demon possessed man.
- Teaching in a home in Capernaum.
- The accusation by the Pharisees that He is in league with Satan.
- Teaching all the parables of Matthew 13, and explaining several privately to His disciples.
- A trip across the Sea of Galilee during which He falls asleep.
- A storm comes up, and He calms the storm.
- He and the disciples arrive on the other side, He heals the demoniacs in the area of the Gerasenes, including the one called Legion, the demons go into the pigs, which rush into the sea and drown.



III. The Divine Lord (31-35)

- A. The Unusual Circumstances (31-32)
 - 31 – "Then His mother and His brothers arrived.
 - Matt. 12:46 – "While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him."
 - 31a – "Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside.
 - 31b – they sent word to Him and called Him."
 - 32 – "A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You.""

III. The Divine Lord (31-35)

- B. Jesus' Surprising Response (33-35)
 - A Question
 - 33 – "Answering them, He said, "Who are My mother and My brothers?""
 - A Statement
 - 34a – "Looking about at those who were sitting around Him
 - Cf. Matt. 12:49 - "And stretching out His hand toward His disciples..."
 - 34b – He said, "Behold My mother and My brothers!"

Jesus' True Family

- Matt. 25:40 - ""The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'""
- Matt. 28:10 - "Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.'""
- Luke 11:27-28 - "While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.'" 28 "But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.""
- Rom. 8:29 - "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.""
- Heb. 2:11-12 - "For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren." 12 "saying, "I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN, IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE.'""

III. The Divine Lord (31-35)

- B. Jesus' Surprising Response (33-35)
 - A Question
 - 33 – "Answering them, He said, "Who are My mother and My brothers?""
 - A Statement
 - 34a – "Looking about at those who were sitting around Him
 - 34b – He said, "Behold My mother and My brothers!"
 - A Reason
 - 35 – ""For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.'""
 - Matt. 12:50 – ""For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.'""
 - Luke 8:21 - "But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.'""

The Will of God?

- The command of the gospel
 - Mark 1:14-15 –repent and believe.
- The rest of what Jesus taught.
 - Cf. Luke 6:46 – ""Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"
 - Cf. Titus 1:16 – "They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed."
 - Cf. 1 John 2:17 – "The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever."

Serious Implications...

- **1)** In response to Jesus' claims, there are only three viable options...
 - A lunatic
 - A liar
 - Lord and God!

C.S. Lewis in Mere Christianity

- "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." (Lewis 1952, p. 43)

Serious Implications...

- **2)** As Jesus' followers, we too will be thought of as either...
 - Deceived, simple, naïve, weak-minded, or insane.
 - Or liars and hypocrites, with some kind of selfish agenda.

Serious Implications...

- **3)** For every Christian, our primary relationships are our spiritual relationships.
 - Cf. Ex. 32:25-29; Deut. 33:8-9
 - Our greatest relational priority is Jesus Christ.
 - Cf. [Matt. 10:35-37](#);
 - After Christ, our greatest relational priority is those who are also His followers.
 - [Mark 10:28-30](#)

Serious Implications...

- **4)** The intimacy of the relationship we enjoy with Christ is incredible!
 - When Jesus thinks of us, it's as if we are His brothers or sisters or mothers.