

The Gospel According to Mark

Legend, Liar, Lunatic, or Lord

Mark 3:20-35



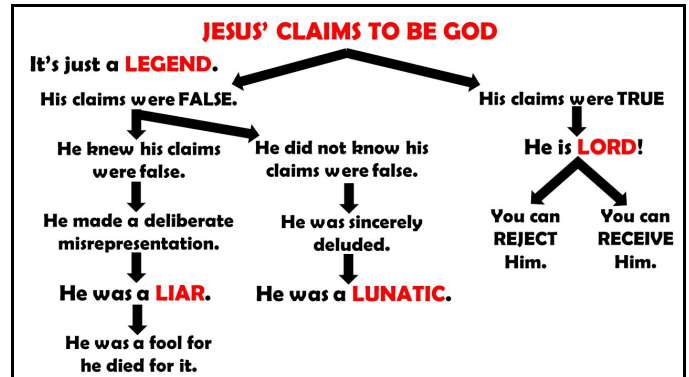
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Introduction:

C.S. Lewis' "trilemma"

3 options:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)



I. OPPOSITION FROM HIS FRIENDS (vs. 20-21)

A. Still Facing the Crowds (vs. 20)

"And He came home, and the crowd gathered again"

"to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal."

B. Now Facing Censure (vs. 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. OPPOSITION FROM HIS FOES (vs. 22-30)

A. Their Blatant Rejection (vs. 22)

"The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, 'He is possessed by Beelzebul'"

"and 'He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.' "

B. His Blistering Rebuttal (vs. 23-30)

"And He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables..."

"How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished!"

“But no one can enter the strong man’s house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house.”

“Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin.”

“because they were saying, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’ ”

“In light of the context this [sin] refers to an attitude (not an isolated act or utterance) of defiant hostility toward God that rejects His saving power toward man, expressed in the spirit empowered person and work of Jesus. It is one’s preference for darkness even though he has been exposed to light (cf. John 3:19). Such a persistent attitude of willful unbelief can harden into a condition in which repentance and forgiveness, both mediated by God’s Spirit, become impossible. This person is guilty (enochos, ‘liable to, in the grasp’) of an eternal sin (sing., the ultimate sin because it remains forever unforgiven; cf. Matt. 12:32). Judas Iscariot (cf. Mark 3:29; 14:43-46) proved the reality of these words.”
– John Grassmick

III. OPPOSITION FROM HIS FAMILY (vs. 31-35)

A. His Natural Family (vs. 31)

“Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him and called Him.”

B. His New Family (vs. 32-35)

“A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, ‘Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You.’ ”

“Answering them, He said, ‘Who are My mother and My brothers?’ ”

“Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He said, ‘Behold My mother and My brothers!’ ”

“For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

Conclusion:

“In order to follow Christ, we have to deny ourselves, to crucify ourselves, to lose ourselves. The full, inexorable demand of Jesus Christ is now laid bare. He does not call us to a sloppy half-heartedness, but to a vigorous, absolute commitment. He calls us to make Him our Lord. The astonishing idea is current in some circles today that we can enjoy the benefits of Christ’s salvation without accepting the challenge of his sovereign lordship. Such an unbalanced notion is not to be found in the New Testament. ‘Jesus is Lord’ is the earliest known formulation of the creed of Christians. In days when imperial Rome was pressing its citizens to say ‘Caesar is Lord’, these words had a dangerous flavor. But Christians did not flinch. They could not give to Caesar their first allegiance, because they had already given it to the Emperor Jesus. God had exalted his Son Jesus far above all principality and power and invested him with a rank superior to every rank, that before him “every knee should bow...and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord”.

– John R.W. Stott

Food for Thought:

- 1) What led some of Jesus’ friends to conclude that “He has lost His senses”?
- 2) What led the scribes of Jerusalem to attribute it to demon possession?
- 3) What is the unpardonable sin?
- 4) What constitutes Jesus “new family”?
Support your answer from Scripture.