



Mark: Following Jesus Immediately- Mistaken Identity

Introduction: There are times when people are drawn to Jesus due to what they've heard, but at some point they have to decide for themselves who He really is. In Mark 3, the question of lunatic, liar, or Lord first arises. If Jesus is indeed Lord, the only sane response is to follow him whole-heartedly.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been mistaken for someone else? How about identity theft, any experience with that? What is it like trying to prove your identity?
2. Read **Mark 3:20-22** Why might Jesus' family think he's out of his mind? Sometimes people think that a person's religious devotion is "too extreme." Is there a way to know whether someone is being extreme or if it is the logical outcome of their belief?
3. The Pharisees claim Jesus is doing this as an agent of Satan driving out Satan. Why is that an easier conclusion than that He has the God-given identity and authority to do so? What would an acknowledgement of Jesus' identity require of them?
4. Read **Mark 3:23-27** Identify what Jesus is describing, particularly in vs 27. Who is the strongman? What is Jesus saying about himself?
5. During the sermon, CS Lewis' "trilemma" was referenced. This idea that Jesus is either a lunatic, liar, or Lord. That he can't be just admired or seen as a good moral teacher because that option is not open to us-that Jesus didn't leave that option open to us. What do you think of that idea?
6. Read **Mark 3:28-35** Jesus here covers some controversial ground with a description of an unforgivable sin and the identification of who his family is. What do you think of the idea of an unforgivable sin? Should you worry that you are/have committed it? What is he saying about who His family is?

Shaping Your Mind – *In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house.* Mark 3:27

Moving Forward – *"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."* CS Lewis