

JESUS IS GOD

Part 17 of Foundations 260. Mark 2:23-3:6.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. May 18, 2025.

WHO IS JESUS? ENDLESS DEBATES

Jesus's identify has been debated from the beginning of the Christian movement.

- The Bible needs to be studied and interpreted.
- That leaves room for critics and the devil to exploit ambiguities.
- Marcion (85-160 AD): Jesus only appeared to be human.
- Arius (256-336 AD): Jesus is not the supreme God, but a created god.
- There have been many such "Christological heresies."

WHY DOES IT MATTER WHO JESUS IS?

It matters because:

- If Jesus is not truly human, he cannot represent and redeem us.
- If Jesus is not truly God, he cannot satisfy God's justice.
- He is the God-man who mediates between God and humanity (1 Tim. 2:5).

MARK 2:23-3:6

On the Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to make their way, picking some heads of grain. 24 The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath? "

25 He said to them, "Have you never read what David and those who were with him did when he was in need and hungry — 26 how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest and ate the bread of the Presence (1 Samuel 21:1–6) — which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests — and also gave some to

his companions? ” 27 Then he told them, “The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. 28 So then, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

1 Jesus entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a shriveled hand. 2 In order to accuse him, they were watching him closely to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath. 3 He told the man with the shriveled hand, “Stand before us.” 4 Then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do evil, to save life or to kill? ” But they were silent. 5 After looking around at them with anger, he was grieved at the hardness of their hearts and told the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out, and his hand was restored. 6 Immediately the Pharisees went out and started plotting with the Herodians against him, how they might kill him.

WHO DID JESUS THINK HE WAS?

Jesus thought he was the Lord - verse 28.

28 So then, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

“Lord” means two things.

- Jesus believed he was the Lord God who gave the Sabbath law to Israel in Exodus 20:

Exodus 20:2 (CSB) I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.

- Jesus believed he was the Lord God who had authority to interpret and apply his laws:

Verse 27: “The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath”

There’s no doubt that Jesus thought he was the Lord God.

John 13:13 (CSB) You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am.

- Was Jesus correct?

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A SABBATH CONFLICT

Jesus healed a man's hand on the Sabbath.

- Because he is “Lord even of the Sabbath.”
- The Pharisees allowed healing on the Sabbath but only to save a life.
- But Jesus healed the man because it is *“lawful to do good on the Sabbath”*

This created a conflict.

- The Pharisees plotted to kill Jesus.
- They believed Jesus was claiming to be God, which was blasphemy.

Mark was a clever author.

- He arranged the stories in chapters 2-3 to show a pattern. First, Jesus claimed divinity (forgave sins, Lord even of Sabbath; 2:2-8, 23-28), then he backed up his claims by healing people (2:8-12, 3:1-6).

WHAT'S YOUR VERDICT?

Mark wrote his Gospel to convince us that Jesus is God.

- Jesus believed he was God.
- Mark believed Jesus was God.
- Now, what do you believe?

If you decide that Jesus is God, it changes everything.

- Jesus is your Creator.
- Your life belongs to Him. You owe Him obedience and worship.
- Jesus calls you to trust him, follow Him, learn from Him, and, if necessary, give your life for Him.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's May 18th teaching and study guide.
- What were the highlights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- Use the S.P.E.C.K. method to reflect on and apply the teaching:
 - S: Sins to confess
 - P: Promises to claim
 - E: Examples to follow
 - C: Commands to obey or Christ to rest in
 - K: Knowledge or insights to consider

Discuss

- Why do you think the question "Who is Jesus?" has led to so much debate and disagreement throughout Christian history? Is it really so unclear?
- What does it mean that Jesus called himself "Lord even of the Sabbath"? Who is the Lord in the Old Testament? Check out the following online article for insights: www.gotquestions.org/LORD-GOD-Lord-God.html
- Mark 2-3 highlights a pattern: Jesus makes a divine claim (forgiving sins, Lord of the Sabbath) and then performs a miracle to back it up. Why do you think Mark emphasizes this pattern? Do you feel that these miracles are convincing proofs to back up his claims?
- If you believe Jesus is God, how does that belief practically impact your life? Peter preached that if Jesus is God, "your life belongs to Him." What are your thoughts and feelings about this statement?

Prayer

- Pray for more grace to know/believe that Jesus is God, and to commit yourself to worship and follow him