

THE REAL JESUS

Mark 2:1-3:6

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Almost everyone puts on a "pretense" at some time or other, that is, not wanting to reveal who he/she really is or trying to hide some personality trait that one is ashamed of. Often people disguise themselves in various ways again trying to hid their real person. During Jesus' ministry people kept asking themselves as well as Jesus, "just who is this man anyhow?" Some knew Jesus' background as to His family and home town and were having a problem with trying to figure out just who Jesus really was, after all He grew up with their own kids and they knew Jesus' parents, so why all this change in personality, just who did Jesus think He was pretending to be the Messiah. The religious leaders and Jesus had a great deal of controversy and Jesus gave them all strong, solid answers to their questions as to just who He really was.

I. THE REAL JESUS IS THE LORD OF FORGIVENESS

1. *Mark 2:1-12*

2. Which do people need more, physical healing or spiritual healing?
 - Most would say that physical healing is one's greatest need.
 - The man in the text needed healing both physically and spiritually.
 - One's greatest need for healing is not physical, but spiritual.
 - Those who heal today physically, such as doctors, medicines, etc. cannot heal spiritually.
 - Who can forgive sins, restore one's relationship with God, the Heavenly Father?
3. Jesus asked the question as to whether it was easier to SAY "...your sins are forgiven" or to say, "stand up..."
 - Anybody can SAY that one's sins are forgiven but who can SAY that a person is healed without proving it?
 - Who can prove a person wrong who says he/she has forgiven someone's sins? It is an invisible act.
 - Jesus proved He could forgive sins by visibly healing the man. He claimed that He could forgive sins, but who but God has the authority to forgive sins?
 - Only God could forgive sins, only God could make such a claim without lying and being blasphemous.
 - So, unless Jesus is God, He lied. So, Who is Jesus? Who does this man Jesus think He is?
4. Jesus is the Lord of Forgiveness.

II. THE REAL JESUS IS THE LORD OF REDEMPTION

1. *Mark 2:13-17*

2. Tax collectors in Jesus' day were despised because they collected taxes for the Roman Government and were considered as traitors and then they were known to collect more taxes than required, putting the excess in their pockets.
 - Tax collectors were considered the chief sinners.

3. Levi, a tax collector, was called by Jesus to become a disciple, a follower.
 - Here is Jesus fellowshipping with a well known sinner, who does Jesus think He is?
4. Jesus told those questioning His fellowship with Levi, a chief sinner, that He did not come to change the righteous (self-righteous), but sinners (those who recognized their need).
 - God never saves a person who doesn't think he/she needs to be saved.
 - The religious Pharisees didn't think they needed to be saved.
 - The sick go to a doctor to be cured, healed, so a sinner goes to Jesus to be saved, to receive righteousness.
 - If a sick person refuses to go to a doctor, that person remains sick.
 - If a sinner refuses to recognize his/her own sin, he/she will remain a sinner.
 - So, who is Jesus? Who does this man Jesus think He is?
5. Jesus is the Lord of Redemption.

III. THE REAL JESUS IS THE LORD OF CHANGE

1. *Mark 2:18-22*
2. Fasting was associated with mourning, so to fast at a wedding would be insulting because there is supposed to be celebrating with the bridegroom and his guests.
 - Jesus considers Himself the bridegroom, the Man of honor.
 - The disciples of Jesus were Jesus' "wedding" guests.
3. As to garments, new material sewed onto old material does not work.
 - Jesus considered Himself the new material and the Old Testament Laws, etc, were the old material.
 - Jesus is bringing in something entirely new.
4. New wine and old wine skins didn't work together for the old wine skins were already stretched to their capacity and if new wine were put into the old skins, the skins would burst because the new wine would ferment and stretch the old skin to breaking point.
 - Jesus is the new wine and the Old Testament Laws, etc. were the old wine skins.
 - It was time for the new to replace the old.
 - Jesus came to bring in, to establish an age of Grace to replace the age of the Law.
5. Just who does this Jesus think He is?
 - Jesus is the Lord of Change

IV. THE REAL JESUS IS THE LORD OF THE SABBATH

1. *Mark 2:23-3:6*
2. In the eyes of some of the religious leaders, Jesus and His disciples had violated some of the laws concerning the Sabbath.
 - Jesus explained that the Sabbath was made for people and not the other way around.
 - Laws had been added that only if one's life was in danger could there be rescue on the Sabbath. The Pharisees had added many laws through the years.

3. Jesus reminded them that God made the Sabbath for people, not the other way around and Jesus claimed to be the Lord of the Sabbath.
- Who did this man Jesus think He was anyhow?
4. Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath. After all it was His idea in the first place.

CONCLUSION:

1. Doesn't it make sense that the Creator, the Author, the Lord of the Universe had the authority and could do what Jesus was doing?
2. Who does this man Jesus think He is?
3. Who is this man Jesus to you?
4. The real Jesus is Lord of all.