

# Front Door Doctrine: The Deity of Jesus

## Mark 1:1-13

Read *Vintage Jesus* (p. 11-12)

### **Today we face the danger of missing the real Jesus.**

We've heard about Him in church, we have four Gospel accounts of His life and ministry.

We've seen the movies and the t-shirts (Jesus is my Home boy, Real men love Jesus) – there's even a "Jesus" action figure that you can buy.

The book of Mark has one goal in mind: to tell its readers the good news that Jesus is the Son of God, in other words, that Jesus is God in human form – and that He has come to rescue the lost; to restore the broken.

What we have here isn't a collection of random events that Mark happened to remember – like trying to journal the events of a vacation after the fact...

It's deliberate in every way. He carefully selects scenes from Jesus' life so that his readers will know exactly who Jesus Christ was and is today...after reading his account we are all left with a decision to make: "What do we believe about Jesus?"

A lot of people have a picture of Jesus in their heads – a distorted idea that goes unchallenged due to a lack of investigating who the real Jesus is.

## **God is introducing Himself to us through the person of Jesus.**

### **The first half of Mark (1:1-8:29) is focused on the question of Jesus' identity.**

It begins by saying, "*The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God*" and ends with Peter's confession, "*You are the Christ!*"

What's in a name?

**Jesus (the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua) – meaning "The LORD (Yahweh) is salvation"**

**"Christ"** is a title; it's not His last name! It tells us something about who He is and what He's done.

Christ = "anointed by God – chosen by God" – He is the anointed one.

### **Isaiah 35:4-6**

God made clear how people would recognize *the Christ*, his anointed King, when He came!

Chapter 2 – the lame walk  
Chapter 7 – the deaf and mute hear and speak  
Chapter 8 – the blind man sees

**Matthew 11:2-6** *When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?” Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 6 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”*

Jesus is being intentional! He’s demonstrating His power so that people would recognize Him.

Mark tells us that John the Baptist is the “*voice of one calling in the desert*” who will prepare the way for the LORD. Isaiah 40<sup>i</sup>

**Who is this Jesus? He is none other than the LORD of the OT, the Yahweh of Isaiah 40:3!**

*Yahweh* means “self-existent One” – “He who IS”  
Jesus heals the sick,  
He controls nature,  
He raises the dead to life,  
He claims the authority to forgive sin (Mark 2:5)

**Mark 2:5-7** – “When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ‘Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! **Who can forgive sins but God alone?**’”

Since sin is an offense against God, only God can forgive it. If someone were to mug you, and beat you, and steal from you, and leave you for dead, and then I told them, “You are forgiven.” You might object, and say, “But it isn’t yours to forgive.” And you would be right. **But if I were God I could.**

In **Matthew 25:31,32** Jesus claimed to be the judge of the world. Jesus said He would decide what happens to every one of us at the end of time. **Suppose a pastor, priest or rabbi** was to get up one day and say, “*On the Day of Judgment you will all appear before me; I will decide your eternal destiny.*” What would you think?

**Jesus talked about himself as if He were God.**

- He refers to Himself as the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14).
- The Bridegroom (promised by the OT in Isaiah 54:5; 62:4-5; Hosea 2:16-20)
- Lord of the Sabbath

- He said He came down from heaven (John 6:38)
- The religious leaders of his day wanted to kill Him because He was *“making himself equal with God.”* (John 5:18; 10:33)

**John 10:31-33** – “Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, ‘I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?’ ‘We are not stoning you for any of these,’ replied the Jews, ‘but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.’” You might notice, Jesus **didn’t** say, “No, put the stones down, I am not claiming to be God.” Instead listen to what He said in **John 10:37-38**, “Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”

**Jesus’ call to follow him echoes the call of God in the OT.**

It is not merely a call to follow his teaching, but in essence demands utter self-giving to his own person (Matthew 10:38; Luke 14:26; Mark 8).

You can’t miss the deliberate centering of himself at the heart of God’s dealings with mankind!

In John 8:58 He takes the precious covenant name of God as His own – Yahweh. (Exodus 3:14)

This is blasphemous. It’s crazy talk. Unless of course Jesus really is God.

**In Mark 3** the religious leaders tell him he’s possessed/ Jesus’ family members think he’s a bit loopy.

Mark 14:61-64/ Daniel 7:14

*C.S. Lewis: 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 a 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... but let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”*

**Jesus is worshipped and spoken of as God<sup>ii</sup>**

The Bible is clear that only God is to be worshipped (Ex 20:1-5; 34:14; Deut 6:13)

God’s people have known this fact! A good Jew would have known this fact!

To offer worship to any other being than the LORD God (Yahweh) was for the Jew unthinkable offensive, the most fundamental, of all sins Acts 10:25-26; 14:11-15; Rev 19:8-10; 22:8-9

And yet *The Father* said to worship Jesus – we see this in Hebrews 1:6.

Then in Rev 5:8-14 all of heaven in worshipping Jesus. Revelation 19:11-16

- Thomas calls Jesus God (John 20:28)
- Paul calls Him God (Romans 9:5)
- Peter calls Him God (2 Peter 1:1)
- John (his closest disciple) equates Him with God (John 1)
- Jesus' earthly mom and brothers worship him after his death and resurrection!

**Doxologies are ascribed to Jesus** (Romans 9:5; 2 Timothy 4:18; 2 Peter 3:18; Revelation 1:5).

**Prayers are addressed to Jesus** (Acts 7:59, 9:13; 1 Corinthians 16:22; Revelation 22:20).

**Our attitudes towards Jesus the same as towards Yahweh** (Matthew 2:2, 8, 11; 14:33; Mark 5:6; John 9:38).

**The disciple's reaction to the risen Christ was worship** (Matthew 28:17; Luke 24:52).

The final proof is eventually found in His resurrection.

The resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of Christianity.

*If Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, and is alive today, then all his claims are accurate, and our response can be none other than surrender. If He's still dead then all the claims of Christianity are nonsense.*

**If He is God made flesh, then how should we respond to His identity?**

Humble adoration and submission.

You will be challenged to know and defend the identity of Jesus.

Jesus is not a great example of how someone should live.

Isaiah 43:11 – *“I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior.”*

Isaiah 45:21; Jeremiah 3:23; 11:12

At birth, Jesus is hailed as the one who “will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

He claimed the power to grant forgiveness (Mark 2:7-10; Luke 7:48).

He is seen as the savior of sinners, he raised the dead, and through him eternal life is given now to all who believe in him (Mark 10:21; John 3:16; 5:24; 1 John 5:11).

**How did you first understand who Jesus was?**

Not the long haired – blue eyed Jesus of the felt boards and story books.

When did you consider the reality of WHO Jesus IS.

Maybe you're just now doing that tonight.

*God stooped to us. He didn't demand that we reach up to understand him. He came to our world where he could be understood.*

This should become the eternal preoccupation of our lives – God stepping into time and space in the person of His Son...

In the person of Jesus Christ God physically entered into our world. Fully God, fully man in one person – and that one person changed the course of history forever.

## 1 Timothy 2:5-6

### Passages of Scripture demonstrating Jesus is fully God

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and *the Word was God*. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth ([John 1:1, 14](#)).

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known ([John 1:18](#)).

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ([John 20:28](#)).

To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the *Christ who is God over all*, blessed forever. Amen ([Rom. 9:5](#)).

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was *in the form of God*, did not count *equality with God* a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men ([Phil. 2:5-7](#)).

... waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of *our great God* and Savior Jesus Christ ([Titus 2:13](#)).

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power ([Heb. 1:3](#)).

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever." ... And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands" ([Heb. 1:8, 10](#)).

Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of *our God and Savior Jesus Christ* ([2 Pet. 1:1](#)).

### Questions for discussion

1. Why is it so important that we get the identity of Jesus right? What's at stake? How could we relate to Him the wrong way if we get His identity wrong?
2. What do the opening chapters of Mark tell you about who Jesus is? How does that effect the way you relate to Jesus?
3. When did you first understand who Jesus was?
4. People have a lot of theories about Jesus but Mark 8:27-30 Jesus asks a very direct question about His identity. How do you answer that question?
5. What is so surprising about what Jesus says in Mark 2:5?

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<sup>i</sup> Mark actually quotes a *mixture of three* texts: Exodus 23:30; Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1

*In their context these OT prophecies are announcing the arrival of a rescuer King, the Christ, who will save people from God's judgment.*

These Scriptures speak of one who would come and prepare the way of the LORD (of Yahweh)!

**Exodus 23:20** Deliverance out of Egypt - *contains God's promise to send a messenger before the Israelites through the desert to the promised land.*

**Isaiah 40:3** Deliverance out of Babylon - *speaks of a second exodus through the desert to the final deliverance prepared for God's people...*

**Malachi 3:1** *warns that God will send a messenger to prepare the way before Him - before the coming day of judgment.*

**Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1-3** - All of this provides the backdrop for John's ministry

**John's ministry proclaimed what was hoped for** - the arrival of the long awaited for Messiah

<sup>ii</sup> John 1:1, 14, 20:28; Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:6, 9-11; Colossians 1:15-20; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8, 10-12, 13:8; 2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 5:20; John 12:40-41