

Sermon Series: “From Bethlehem to Calvary to Heaven”—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—1/11/2004

Title: “Jesus: The Man of the Hour”

Text: Mark 1-3 (selected verses)

Intro.: *Ills.: Baseball Cubs and their curse — are we playing with voodoo fire?*

Theme: When I come to acknowledge that Jesus is not my spiritual rabbit’s foot, I trust in Him to give me my greatest deliverance from sin to eternal life and then deliverance from sin’s natural consequences in my daily life which supports that end goal of life in heaven.

A bird’s eye view of Mark 1-10

- Mark is writing to a secular audience — Roman Christians — seeker crowd — USA Today style — just get to the point
- Mark’s Theme: Jesus is a “man/Savior of action” (immediately)—salvation about God acting when we could/would not
- Mark shows us more /miracles stories than themes or topics —his authority power to save us from our sins

Jesus as “go-to guy” or Savior

- People are full of various needs which have a similar source— from which they need deliverance
 1. Understanding the source of all the dilemmas and trials we face
 1. Go back to **Genesis 3: 16-19** for the bluntly honest truth
 2. *“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” . . .Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.” Rom 3: 10-12, 19*
 2. Jesus did not come to be our personal resource person
 1. **Ills.: T.V. commercial that portrays a woman who has personal assistants for everything**
 2. Accepting this helps us to be humble in our relation with Jesus and receive his *deliverance* in our lives
 3. *Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits--who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” Psalm 103:1-5*
- Needing Jesus as a Savior rather than as an assistant in our lives (**Read Mk 1: 29-38**)
 3. Have you ever wondered why Jesus didn’t heal/deliver everyone of their dilemmas?
 1. Lots of blind, lame, deaf, and dead people were never recipients of Jesus earthly ministry of healing
 2. Why does Jesus heal/deliver some people and not others? — *from our perspective*
 4. Jesus healed to increase faith and to set the stage for the good news
 1. Jesus visited and heal Peter’s mother-in-law to increase the faith of his disciples
 2. Jesus healed diseases/drove out demons to show that Kingdom of God had come not for satanic grandstand (34)
 3. Jesus purpose not to heal/feed/maintain but to introduce/ preach the radical transformation of the kingdom (38)
 4. *“The time has come,” Jesus said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” Mark 1:15*
 5. Looking for Jesus’ “bigger picture” for my eternal existence over against temporal quick fix artist
- Jesus wants to be our personal Savior from sins (**Print and read Mark 2: 1-12**)
 6. Jesus did his miracles to convince us, personally, that he is our God and Savior
 1. **Read again Mark 2: 9-12**
 2. All the evidence is there — *He really is God!* — he teaches with authority and backed it up with divine miracles
 7. What kind of *personal* reaction will you have to Jesus?
 1. **Reserved Faith** --- holding Jesus at arms length — it is a good thing to do, to listen too, to even get excited about
 - **Ills.: Support for Colts high during playoff but runs cold during summer in contract talks**
 - Same people that were amazed and wowed by Jesus were ready to shout him to the cross months later
 2. **Cynic/skeptic Religion** – prove it to me again, today, Jesus
 - **Ills.: Personal Conviction**
 - religious leaders question Jesus credentials because they did not want to turn over the keys to the church/lives
 3. **Courageous Faith** (*When Jesus saw their faith*) – paralyzed man’s friends stopped at nothing to be close to Jesus

Baseball Cubs and Curse

(See George Beres, syndicated columnist, article on Sam Sianis billy goat curse)

Personal Conviction

A defendant was on trial for murder in Oklahoma. There was strong evidence indicating guilt, but there was no corpse. In the defense's closing statement the lawyer, knowing that his client would probably be convicted, resorted to a trick. "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I have a surprise for you all," the lawyer said as he looked at his watch. "Within one minute, the person presumed dead in this case will walk into this courtroom." He looked toward the courtroom door. The jurors, somewhat stunned, all looked on eagerly. A minute passed. Nothing happened. Finally the lawyer said, "Actually, I made up the previous statement. But you all looked on with anticipation. I, therefore, put it to you that there is reasonable doubt in this case as to whether anyone was killed and insist that you return a verdict of not guilty." The jury, clearly confused, retired to deliberate. A few minutes later, the jury returned and pronounced a verdict of guilty. "But how?" inquired the lawyer. "You must have had some doubt; I saw all of you stare at the door." Answered the jury foreman: "Oh, we did look. But your client didn't."...

Mark 1:29-38

²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. ³¹So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. ³²That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. ³⁵Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" ³⁸Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else--to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."

Mark 2:1-12

¹A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ²So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷"Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?" ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ." He said to the paralytic, ¹¹"I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹²He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Genesis 3:16-19

To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."