


## Trilemma: Liar, Lunatic, or Lord? (Pt. 3)

*Mark 3:20-35*


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- **1)** Jesus was real man who lived in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.
    - **a)** Secular and non-Christian sources confirm His existence and the key events of His life (e.g., Josephus, Tacitus, the Talmud, Pliny the Younger).
    - **b)** Jesus selected 11 eyewitnesses to testify about the details of His life (Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8; 1 John 1:1-2).
  - **2)** We have historically dependable accounts of what Jesus did, taught and claimed.
    - **a)** We have more manuscripts of the NT (5700) and ones that date closer to the originals than any other ancient document (25 yrs. vs. 700-1400 yrs. avg.).
    - **b)** Jesus authorized the apostles to write the NT as the definitive explanation of His life and teaching (John 14:26; 16:12-15; 17:20).

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- **3)** Jesus claimed to be God and the Savior of the world (e.g., John 8:57-58; Mark 14:60-64).
  - **4)** There are only three possible conclusions to Jesus' claims (an argument often called "the Trilemma")...
    - **a)** He was a Liar.
    - **b)** He was a Lunatic.
    - **c)** He is the Lord.

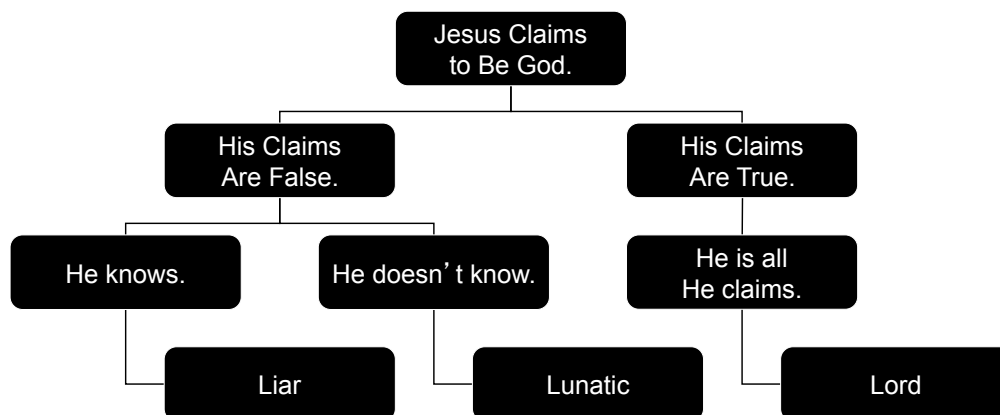
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### Two Helpful Resources...

- *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell.
- *Reasons We Believe* by Nathan Busenitz.

### Three Basic Alternatives



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- I. A Deluded Lunatic (20-21)
- II. A Demonic Liar (22-30)
  - A. False Accusations (22)
  - B. Jesus' Refutation (23-27)
  - C. A Solemn Warning (28-30)

### The Unpardonable Sin

- **1)** A manifest, undeniable act of the Spirit.
- **2)** An intentional, conscious act of attributing to Satan what you know to be a work of God.

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### The Implications

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- **1)** Clear, incontrovertible miracles are never sufficient to cause a dead heart to believe.
- **2)** As Jesus' followers, we too will be called liars and deceivers who have evil or selfish agendas.
- **3)** If Jesus was not God and if He was not delusional, then He must have been a demonic liar.
  - "If Jesus was not God, then He was not good!"