


Trilemma: Liar, Lunatic, or Lord? (Pt. 4)

Mark 3:20-35


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- **1)** Jesus was real man who lived in the 1st 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).

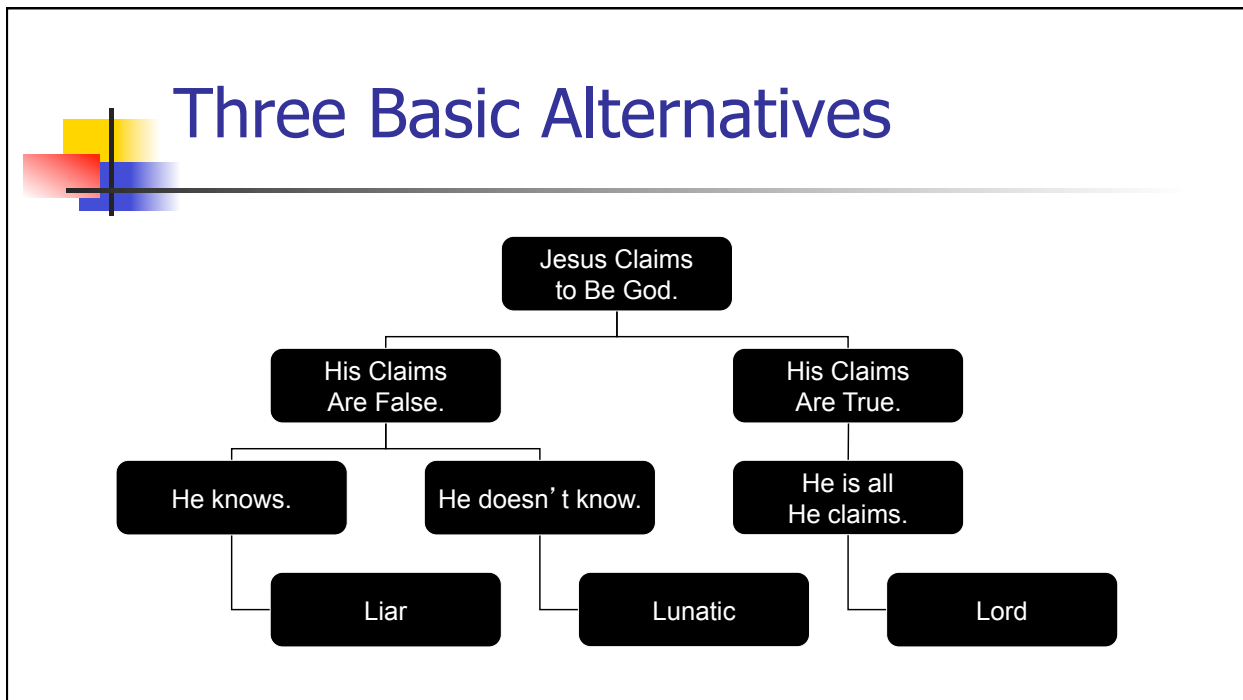
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- **3)** Jesus claimed to be God and the Savior of the world (e.g., John 8:57-58; Mark 14:60-64).
 - **4)** There are only three possible conclusions to Jesus' claims (an argument often called "the Trilemma")...
 - **a)** He was a Liar.
 - **b)** He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

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- I. A Deluded Lunatic (20-21)
- II. A Demonic Liar (22-30)
- III. The Divine Lord (31-35)
 - A. The Unusual Circumstances (31-32)
 - B. Jesus' Shocking Response (33-35)

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The Implications for Us...

- **1)** There are only three possible responses to Jesus' claims to be God:
 - **a)** Liar
 - **b)** Lunatic
 - **c)** Lord
- **2)** There are only three possible responses to Jesus as Lord...
 - **a)** Confess Jesus as your Lord, and truly follow Him.
 - **b)** Confess Jesus as your Lord but not live in obedience to Him—in which case, you are not a Christian.
 - **c)** Continue to rebel against His authority.
- **3)** For every Christian, our primary relationships are our spiritual relationships.
- **4)** Like the disciples gathered around Jesus that morning, we are closer to Him than His earthly family was!