

The Son Of God

Mark 3:7-12

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⁷ Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea ⁸ and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. ⁹ And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, ¹⁰ for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. ¹¹ And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." ¹² And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

My title for this sermon is "The Son of God".

- There are people in this world who believe there is no such thing as a devil or Satan.
- And there are the people of science who think believing in demons or in the Devil is just nonsense. However, science offers very little help to explain the bizarre behavior of people like those who do the most unconscionable things.
- And there are others who indulge in all kinds of mystic practices like tarot cards, channeling your energy etc. Denial of demons does not prove they don't exist. Nor does the practice of occultism prove the existence of demons.
- Hear from Jesus what He had to say about the devil. When the Jewish leaders said that Abraham was their father, Jesus told them that their father was the devil and their will was to do what their father desires (John 8:44). Why? Because they were plotting to kill Jesus. The unregenerate world is in the grip of Satan. (1 John 5:19).
- Demonic strongholds or influences are very real today. How do we know? Look at all the violence in our world. Jesus said, "*The thief (the devil) comes only to steal and kill and destroy*" John 10:10. So we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against the spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12).
- When angels sinned against God., they were cast into hell. Fallen angels or devils have no chance for redemption (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 1:6) but you have redemption when you are a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:8 "*Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil*". This is good news because when Jesus is the Lord of your life, you can live with confidence and assurance because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4). You don't need fortune telling or any other mystic

methods to know what the future holds because Jesus is your security.

In this passage, we see whenever unclean spirits or demons saw Jesus Christ they begin to tremble. The whole demonic realm is afraid of our Lord.

Last week we saw how our Lord Jesus Christ confronted the Pharisees about healing on the Sabbath. The Pharisees were filled with such hatred for Jesus that they are ready to kill him. So, one group is trying to destroy Jesus and the other group is afraid of being destroyed by Jesus. One would wish that the Pharisees knew what the demons knew.

This morning, we are going to take a closer look at the identity of Jesus Christ – the Son of God. And we'll look at what it means to believe in the Son of God and what implications it has for you.

Let's look at verses 8 through 10.

⁸ Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea ⁸ and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. ⁹ And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, ¹⁰ for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him.

Why did Jesus withdraw? Last week we saw Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on a Sabbath. And there Jesus heals a man with a withered hand. As a result, the Pharisees were enraged and were seeking to destroy him. Jesus withdrew because his time to go to the cross and die had not yet come.

So he goes in the direction of the sea of Galilee. And what happens? A large crowd follows him. The crowd is always there. Only a few follow and obey. And why does the crowd follow him? Because of what he was doing. Jesus is busy driving demons out, healing the sick and the crowd follows him only because they can see the next big miracle. I imagine that many even today are interested in the gifts and not the giver of gifts.

So on one the hand, the Pharisees are trying to kill Jesus. But the other hand, the crowds are pressing in on him ready to crush him.

In verse 10, you see a crowd wanted to see Jesus because he healed many. And many more wanted to touch him.

So Jesus tells his disciples to have a boat ready. The boat was there to have vantage point for him to teach (Matthew 13:2). In verse 11, we see something quite interesting.

¹¹ *And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God."* ¹² *And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.*

We began Mark's Gospel with verse one in chapter one – "the beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God". (Mark 1:1)

And at Jesus' baptism we saw that a voice came from heaven and said, "You are my Beloved Son". (Mark 1:11).

Heaven witnesses to the Son of God. And here time hell witnesses to who Jesus is.

The demons fear and cry out that Jesus is the Son of God.

Why are the unclean spirits so fearful and cry out when they see Jesus?

They know Jesus is the Holy One of God. They know about something about Jesus's identity. The Pharisees don't know Jesus' identity. The kings and rulers don't know his identity. The disciples are beginning to understand his identity. But of all people, the devils know who Jesus is. Jesus is the Son of God.

But Jesus shuts them up. Why?

Jesus does not need witnesses from hell. Jesus wants witnesses who are going to be with him in heaven. Jesus wants you to be His witness. What a privilege you have!

The demons cannot help it but scream and tremble at the sight of Jesus.

Jesus's disciples cannot help "*but speak of what we have seen and heard*". (Acts 4:20).

See what Paul says about his life ambition in Acts 20:24 "*But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify (witness) to the gospel of the grace of God*"

What more can we say about Jesus Christ, the Son of God? Who is this Son of God? The Son of God is God the Son!

The Father and Son are united in *will* and *being*.

The identity of Jesus was a hotly debated topic in the second and third centuries. One Presbyter of Alexandria, Arius said this about Jesus and was regarded as a heretic.

"God was not always a father. There was a time when God was all alone, and was not yet a father; only later did he become a father. The Son did not always exist. Everything created is out of nothing...so the Logos of God came into existence out of nothing. There was a time when He was not. Before he was brought into being, He did not exist. He also had a beginning to his created existence" - Arius (256-336 A.D)

And it was Athanasius, also from Alexandria who countered Arius with two main reasons:

1. If Jesus is merely a creature, Jesus cannot save.
2. If we are to pray in Jesus' name, that would be blasphemy.

Knowing the Son of God as God the Son is crucial because it *impacts* the way you witness about Christ. Today, there are people who say "we agree that Jesus is Son of God. But Jesus is God the Son?". In some way, there are Arians.

Let's examine some passages where Jesus himself talks about his identity as God the Son:

1. In the Gospel of John chapter five, Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. And the Jews were plotting to kill him. Very similar to what we see in last week's passage in Mark 3. "*This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.*" John 5:18
2. John 5:23 "*Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him*"
3. John 10:31-33 "*The Jews picked up stones again to stone him.* ³² *Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?"* ³³ *The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."*
4. "*No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him*" Revelation 22:3

Here are at least few things we have been seeing and will continue to see in the Gospel of Mark along with other Gospels.

1. Jesus forgives sin. Mark 2:5
2. Jesus gives eternal life. John 5:21
3. Jesus is worthy of worship. Matthew 14:33

At the end of Mark's Gospel, a centurion saw Jesus crucified and he made a confession. "Truly this man was the Son of God!". (Mark 15:39).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as God the Son, came into this world from heaven, to live a perfect life, to die on behalf of sinners, was raised on the third day and is now exalted at the right hand of God the Father. Those who have the Son have life.

----- Discipleship Questions-----

MESSAGE SUMMARY: The Son of God. Mark 3:7-12

HEAD: These questions help you examine the truth of God's Word.

1. How do the unclean spirits respond when they see Jesus Christ? Why does Jesus rebuke them to not make him known?

HEART: These questions help you wrestle with what you believe.

2. Do you believe Jesus, the Son of God is God the Son? Why does this belief matter? Unlike the demons, do you believe Jesus has called you witness and make him known? Why or why not? 1 John 4:15, 5:5, 12-13, 20.
3. What is God convicting you of and to believe in light of this message?

HANDS/HABITS: These questions help you bring the truth into your everyday life and develop behaviors that change your habits.

4. For personal reflection: What will you do make Christ Jesus known?