

“JESUS IS LORD!”  
Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 12:1-14, Ephesians 1:15-23  
April 27 & 28, 2024

One Sunday morning, a man woke up around 5 A.M., his wife and children still asleep. Glad to have time to himself, he went downstairs, brewed some coffee, and began to read the morning paper. Three sentences into an article, he saw his five-year-old daughter descending the stairs.

He said, "Honey, go back to bed."

"But I'm not sleepy," she insisted.

Determined to read his paper, he again urged her to go back to bed. Again, she told him she was not tired.

Looking down at the newspaper, he conceived a plan. In the paper was a picture of the world, which he cut into several pieces. Handing his daughter some Scotch tape, he instructed her, "Go sit in the dining room, and see if you can put the world back together."

His daughter accepted the challenge, and he went back to the kitchen to finish his coffee and read the paper. After only a few sips of his coffee, though, his daughter came bounding into the kitchen. "Here, Daddy, I'm finished!" she said, showing him the picture of the world put back together.

Amazed, he asked, "Sweetie, how did you do that so fast?"

She replied, "It was easy, Daddy. On the back side of the page was a picture of a man. When you make the man right, you make the world right." (Wisdom from the mouths of babes.)

In a similar way, only Jesus can bring order to this world.<sup>1</sup>

The Apostle Paul explained it well in Romans 5:12-19 that we heard today. It was through one man, Adam, that sin entered into the world, and the result of that sin has devastated life here on earth ever since. Death came to every living thing because of that sin, and we are caught in that whole cycle of death because of our participation in the sins of the world. Ever since Adam and Eve fell victim to Satan's lie and broke God's command to them, this world has been held captive by sin. (See Genesis 3)

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<sup>1</sup> (PreachingToday.com, *More Perfect Illustrations*, [Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2003] pg. 86-87)

Even though God had established a way for the temporary covering of the sins of people through animal sacrifices, it was not enough for a permanent fixing of our sins. As a temporary covering, the sacrifice of animals had to be made over and over again for the people to find a relationship with the Lord God Almighty once again. Our total redemption from sin comes only through God's perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ, His only Begotten Son. As God's perfect Son, Jesus could step into humanity, as one of us, and become sin for us, so that a complete elimination of sin could be accomplished. 2 Corinthians 5:21 states it clearly, "*God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*"

Jesus died on the cross of Calvary in order to pay the full penalty for our sins. It was through God's grace that Jesus came to the earth so that through His gift of love, He could bring us out of death into newness of life. So, "*...just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people*" (Romans 5:18). Jesus came to fix humanity so that the world could be put back together and find not only peace, but life as well.

So that makes Jesus a very important person in the history of our world, if only we will take the time to realize what He has done for us. No other person, human or divine, has changed the course of our history more than Jesus did. No other person is capable or able to bring humanity out of the penalty of sin and bring life to those who trust in Him. In His death, He has brought life to all who will believe in Him and receive Him as their Savior.

But there is more to Jesus than just being our Savior, even as important as that is. Jesus came to the earth to become the guide in our life that brings us back to God the Father. Jesus died for the people of the world so that we might not be condemned to eternal death, but to have eternal life.

However, God will judge every person based upon what they do with Jesus. Making Him their **Savior** is step #1 in the process of gaining eternal life. Allowing Jesus to become **Lord** of our life is step #2 of that process as we give up our own sinful ways and take on the very nature of Jesus Christ. We allow Jesus to rule in our hearts and minds so that everything we do and say, and even think, is

guided by His mighty influence in our lives. Making Jesus Lord involves our total surrender to Jesus, so that there is nothing left of our own will, but we are dominated and ruled by Christ Jesus.

Paul tells us that in Galatians 2:20 when he says, *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”* When we take up Jesus to be not only our Savior, but our Lord as well, we become empty of ourselves and fully take upon ourselves the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Now, it’s hard for many to accept Jesus as the Lord of their lives. They want some sort of control over their life, but that control is limited in strength and wisdom and knowledge. And the old human nature that we have in us usually seeks its own way rather than following the ways of the Lord Jesus. So as long as we strive to have control of our own lives, we usually revert back into sinfulness and find our lives turned up-side-down again, forcing us to once again turn back to Jesus for His help.

But we heard today of the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees having a problem of allowing Jesus to have any kind of status. To be Lord involves a greater strength, a greater knowledge and a greater wisdom than the rest of the world. So they questioned Jesus about that in Matthew 12:1-14.

In this instance, they questioned if it was right to “disobey” the guidelines of the Sabbath. They had gotten so strict with not doing any work on the Sabbath that it got almost to be ridiculous. Could Jesus’ disciples pick heads of grain and rub them between their hands to free the grain from the chaff on the Sabbath in order to eat it? That doing work on the Sabbath according to the Pharisees. Could healing a man with a shriveled hand be counted as doing work on the Sabbath? Did God forbid ANY work to be done on the Sabbath?

It is in the explanation of the necessity of doing some work on the Sabbath that gets the hackles of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law all up in arms. Jesus turns it back to them as He says, *“...haven’t you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent? I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. For the Son of*

*Man is Lord of the Sabbath*” (Matt. 12:5-8). The Pharisees and teachers of the Law were using the Scriptures in order to restrict what the people did. And to a point it was accurate, but to go to the miniscule to prevent work being done on the Sabbath turned out making them the hypocrites they were trying to make Jesus out to be.

Throughout His life, the Lord Jesus tried to open up the minds and hearts of the leaders of the Temple so that they could truly understand the intentions of God’s guidelines given to them as the nation of Israel. God was inviting the people to be *“holy, even as I am holy”* (Leviticus 11:44-45), so the Law was the attempt to lead the people into holiness before the Lord. Jesus desired to get the leaders to see the intent of the Law, not to merely to dictate the Law and hold the people captive by it.

But what did Jesus mean when He said, *“The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath”*? Jesus’ Lordship would become most prominent AFTER His resurrection from the dead, when His disciples fully understood His purpose and reason for being with us. Having been the ultimate, perfect Sacrifice that takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29), Jesus became recognized as more than just a man, but rather the true Son of God. As the Son of God, Jesus is equal to God in every way with the exception that He became a little lower than the angels, and dwelt here with us as a human for a little while (Hebrews 2:9).

Among His last words to His disciples, Jesus told them, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me”* (Matthew 28:18). His willingness to humble Himself before God to become the sin sacrifice for the world *“exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the Name that is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Phil. 2:9-11).

So Jesus became the Lord of the Sabbath, the Lord of all. “He brought the highest blessings to men, and arranges everything for their blessedness, even the Sabbath which He meant for their enrichment and not enslavement (Matt. 12:4-7). As “the Son of Man,” He is man’s Savior and Guardian, and therefore urges man to keep the Sabbath sacred, since it was meant for his highest

spiritual and physical welfare. The lesson to be learned from the teaching on the Lord's Day by the Lord Himself is - 'Accept the day as a gift of love, not as a bond of slavery. Profane it not by any work, the motive of which is greed, but work on it like a slave, if mercy prompts you.' It is still true that -

‘A Sabbath well kept Brings a week of content, And health for the toils of the morrow;  
But a Sabbath profaned, Whatsoe'er may be gained, Is a certain forerunner of sorrow.’”<sup>2</sup>

Jesus Is the Lord of All, and the Apostle Paul states it well in Ephesians 1:15-23. Listen to how Paul portrays Jesus. (READ Ephesians 1:15-23)

Putting our faith in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, opens up a door for us to a whole realm of abilities we do not have otherwise. When we let Jesus become the Lord of our life, He moves into our hearts and minds to transform us from the worldly to the righteous. Jesus enables us to become like Him, making us pure and holy in the eyes of God the Father. As Lord of our lives, Jesus empowers us with peace and joy and hope and love and life that enables us to live as witnesses to the world of His marvelous power. When we recognize Jesus as Lord of our lives and submit ourselves to His control, all our pride in earthly things wastes away, and we are able to rejoice in all that He is doing through us. When we humble ourselves to the Lord Jesus, He grants us access to His power through the Holy Spirit, giving us the ability to do even more than what He did while He was on the earth.

When we let the Lord Jesus rule in our hearts, there is no more reason for us to be concerned about the things of this world, for He provides us with our daily needs so that we might be about His work, telling others about God's great love for us. When we let Jesus Christ be the Lord of our lives, we have no more fear of anything that the world could do to us, because we know that *“If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord”* (Romans 14:8). We truly become new creatures in Christ Jesus as we let Him become the Lord of our lives, for He Is Lord of all.

However, there are many in this world that still do not recognize Jesus as the Lord and Savior of

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<sup>2</sup> (Herbert Lockyer, *All The Divine Names And Titles In The Bible*, [Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishers, 1975] pg. 198)

the world. They merely see Him as a “good teacher, a holy man who did great things.” But let me counter that with the words of W. A. Criswell from the second volume of his book, *Great Doctrines of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982, pg. 122) -

“Our blessed Lord combined in one, two natures, both complete;  
A perfect manhood all subline, in Godhead all replete.

As man He entered Cana’s feast, a humble guest to dine;  
As God He moved the water there, and changed it into wine.

As man He climbed the mountain’s height, a suppliant to be;  
As God He left the place of prayer and walked upon the sea.

As man He wept in heartfelt grief, beside a loved one’s grave;  
As God He burst the bands of death, Almighty still to save.

As man He lay within a boat o’erpowered by needful sleep;  
As God He rose, rebuked the wind and stilled the angry deep.

Such was our Lord in life on earth, in dual nature one;  
The woman’s seed in very truth and God’s eternal Son.

O Child, O Son, O Word made flesh, may Thy high praise increase;  
Called Wonderful, the Mighty God, Eternal Prince of Peace.”<sup>3</sup>

If we only look at the things Jesus did, the lessons Jesus taught, and way He submitted Himself to His Father’s will as the perfect Sacrifice for all of us, we begin to see His divine nature and understand His true purpose here with us.

But despite all this, there are still those that refuse to acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior. Some cannot accept a Savior who suffers torture and death, seeing that as a weakness rather than a characteristic of a Messiah. Some may dare to see Jesus as the Savior, but don’t allow Him to guide or rule in their lives. The mere acknowledgement of Jesus being the Messiah, but not allowing Him to influence their lives puts them in a very difficult position of saying one thing, but believing another thing. They say that they believe in Jesus, but they do not do what He calls them to do. They say they know Jesus is the Savior, but they don’t let Him into their lives for Him to change them and empower them to live for Him. They want the benefits of living both in the world and with the Lord. However that doesn’t work, for if we love the one, we will hate the other; and if we are devoted to the one, we

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<sup>3</sup> (Robert J. Morgan, *Stories, Illustrations & Quotes*, [Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2000] pg. 482)

will despise the other, for we cannot serve both the world and the Lord (Luke 6:13). We have to choose one or the other to let be the Lord of our lives.

And there are some who frankly want to eliminate any divinity from Jesus all together by saying that Jesus was just a good moral teacher. I like what C.S. Lewis has to say about that (*Mere Christianity*, [New York; The MacMillan Co., 1960] pg. 41). He says, “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn’t be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic on the level with a man who says he’s a poached egg - or else He would be the devil of hell; you must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a mad man or something worse. You can shut Him up for a demon, or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But don’t come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great moral teacher. He hasn’t left that alternative open to us. He did not intend to.”<sup>4</sup>

You see, we cannot say Jesus is our Savior and Lord, and then go out and do whatever we want to do. If we truly believe that Jesus is the Savior of the world, having atoned for the sins of the world, and that Jesus is Lord of all, that God has given Him all authority and power in heaven and on earth, we must live our lives to reflect that belief. We have to submit our whole selves to Jesus and allow Him to make us who HE wants us to be, and to guide us to where HE wants us to go, and to do what HE wants us to do. It is no longer up to us. We become the servant, allowing Him to direct every part of our life the way that He wants us to be.

Paul makes it very clear that Jesus is Lord of heaven and earth, the only Son of God, the Messiah, and Savior of all humanity. He prays for us, “*that the eyes of [our] hearts may be enlightened in order that [we] may know the hope to which He has called [us], the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, and His incomparably great power for us who believe*” (Ephesians 1:18-19a).

When we submit our lives to Jesus Christ as the Lord of all, there’s so much joy and peace and

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<sup>4</sup> (Robert J. Morgan, *Stories, Illustrations & Quotes*, pg. 482)

love and hope and life in us that we are ready to give our all for Him. When we say “Yes” to let Jesus become our Lord, He makes all things new (Revelation 21:5) within us. He takes our selfish desires away and gives us His desires. He releases us from all worries because He assures us that we can do all things through Him as He gives us new strength (Philippians 4:13). He grants us peace in all situations so that there is no need for anxiety. He provides us answers to our prayers because we are now focused on His will and His way. He enables us insight beyond our understanding, helping others in their struggles. He grants us wisdom to live in ways that honor Him. He allows us great strength to endure all sorts of persecution and oppression. He gives us His never ending love to know that we are never alone. And He promises us life beyond this life so that we need not fear the powers of this world. When we let Jesus become the Lord of our lives, we are able to tap into a whole set of resources given to the children of God as they walk with Jesus.

But the biggest question for us to consider today is this; have we opened our hearts to let Jesus be Lord in us? We can talk about it all day, but a decision needs to be made, here and now. Will we let Jesus be the Lord of our life - in all things - in all ways - for His honor and glory? Jesus Is Lord Of All, but He allows each of us to make the choice of whether we will let Him be Lord of our lives or not.

Today is the day of Salvation! Today is the day of new life! Say “Yes” to Him and live.

Let’s pray: Father, thank You so much for sending Jesus to us here on the earth. Thank You so much for His complete forgiveness offered to us through His death and resurrection. Thank You so much for the new life we have as we let Jesus be Lord of our life. Lord Jesus, You are Lord of All, so today we humble ourselves before You so that You might work in and through us for Your honor and praise. Give us the courage to open up our hearts to You so that You might clean every room in our heart. Then give us the courage to give You ownership of all that we are so that You might use us to do Your work. Enable us, empower us, inspire us, and direct us to where You want us to be, to be with those You want us to be with, and to do that which You want us to do, all for Your glory. Change our hearts, oh Lord, make us to be like You. This we pray in Your powerful Name, Jesus. Amen and Amen