

Who Is This Jesus?

- Exodus 5.1–2, “Who is Yahweh that I should obey his voice? I do not know Yahweh.”
- Previous lessons: 1) “Exodus: Who Is Yahweh That I Should Obey His Voice?” 2) “Leviticus: I Am Yahweh, Be Holy, for I Am Holy,” and 3) “Ezekiel: They Shall Know That I Am Yahweh”
- We continue to investigate who Yahweh is by turning our attention to Jesus

[title] **Who Is This Jesus?**

Jesus’s First Miracle in Mark and Luke, Mark 1.21–28 // Luke 4.31–37

- This pericope ends with the question, “What is this [word]?” They realized there was something different about Jesus.
- In the first part of the pericope, Jesus’s teaching showed that he was someone who had authority and a command of the Scriptures over the rabbis (Luke) and that he was superior to the scribes (Mark).
- In the focus of the pericope, the casting out of the unclean spirit (Mark) / demon (Luke), we see at least two important reactions.
 - o First, the demon recognized Jesus as “the Holy One of God,” an OT reference to Yahweh, Proverbs 9.10; 30.3; Hosea 12.1; throughout Isaiah but especially Isaiah 41.8–16 (v11, “will perish” is the same word in the LXX as in Mark and Luke); this demon recognized that Jesus was Yahweh and that he had authority over all the demons (notice the plural “us” in his question).
 - o Second, all the people were amazed and recognized that Jesus had authority over demons, so he must be someone special, someone they needed to pay attention to.
- The demons knew and obeyed Jesus as Yahweh, those with honest and open hearts, then and now, will know and obey him, too.

Jesus Calms a Storm, Mark 4.35–41 // Matthew 8.18, 23–27 // Luke 8.22–25

- This pericope ends with the question, “Who then is this?” These disciples, being slow to recognize who Jesus really was, certainly recognized there was something special about him on this occasion.
- All Jesus needed to do was speak and the winds and waves ceased, “and there was a great calm.” This is probably a deliberate connection on the part of the Gospel writers to point to Jesus being Yahweh the Creator, Genesis 1.3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26; Psalm 33.6–9; note especially Psalm 18.15; 104.5–7; 106.7–12 (9).
- The disciples had already seen plenty to demonstrate who Jesus was so that they would have faith in him—they should’ve known him, but their faith waned at times, as does ours. This miracle of Jesus served as a good reminder for them, as it should for us, that Jesus is Yahweh / God, and he has power over all creation.
- The winds and waves obeyed Jesus as Yahweh; those with honest and open hearts, then and now, will too.

Jesus Heals a Paralytic AND Forgives Sins, Luke 5.18–26 // Matthew 9.2–8 // Mark 2.3–12

- This pericope emphasizes the question, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” They recognized there was something unusual about someone claiming to forgive someone’s sins, even sinful if that person were not God.
- Jesus had indeed told the man, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” But he didn’t just claim to have this ability or power, he was willing to back it up with a visible demonstration of his true power. So, he told the man, “Rise, pick up your bed and go home. And immediately he rose up before them ... and went home, glorifying God.” This resulted in amazement seizing them all and them glorifying God.
- The statement the scribes and Pharisees made about Jesus speaking blasphemies was blasphemous, for Jesus clearly showed that he is Yahweh, and all who had honest and open hearts could see it clearly!

[For another example of a similar question see John 12.27–36, with the question in verse 34.]

“Who is Yahweh that I should obey his voice?” Jesus is Yahweh. He is God. He has power over all creation, spiritual and physical, and he can forgive your sins. Even the demons believe and shudder (cf. James 2.19). Don’t be like the demons who believe and do not live faithfully. Know Jesus and faithfully serve him today.