

Jesus- Lord

Very soon after Jesus began His ministry people began to call Jesus Lord. Such as...

¹ When He came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him. ² Right away a man with a serious skin disease came up and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” ³ Reaching out His hand He touched him, saying, “**I am willing; be made clean.**” Immediately his disease was healed. ⁴ Then Jesus told him, “**See that you don’t tell anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses prescribed, as a testimony to them.**”

Matt 8:1-4 (HCSB)

But what did he mean? Was this man, with limited exposure to the personal identity and character of Jesus, acknowledging that Jesus was Creator God, Lord of heaven and earth, or did he mean something else or something less?.... The word translated Lord was not a new word always ascribed uniquely to Jesus or Jehova God. It was a fairly common Greek word showing respect for a person of high power or supreme authority.

Lord- Greek kurios- supreme in authority; (as a respectful title) God, Lord, master, sir.

In the New Testament it is consistently applied by the writers as a divine title exclusively ascribed to Jesus the Son or God the Father.

Certainly this man was showing Jesus respect by calling Him Lord, but we don’t know for sure the level and depth of understanding and respect he was showing. As early in Jesus

ministry as it was, I would tend to conclude that this was at the most somewhere in between just showing respect for a very unique, special fellow human being and fully acknowledging Jesus as Lord, God, supreme authority of heaven and earth.

So, can we know for sure that people who encountered Jesus, the gospel writers, and Jesus Himself claimed that He was truly and completely eternal, sovereign **Lord** of the universe? Some skeptics claim that it was much later after Jesus crucifixion that people began to proclaim Jesus was supreme authority, Lord and God. Today we will attempt to remove all possibility of such a claim. We will conclude that either Jesus was truly Lord as those who followed Him, the gospel writers, and Jesus Himself claimed, as recorded in the scripture or, He was a liar, deceiver, ego-maniac. There should be no room left for any other conclusion.

Claims of Christ' Lordship

Supreme authority (as stated by the Centurion)

⁵ When He entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶ “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible agony!” ⁷ “**I will come and heal him,**” He told him. ⁸ “Lord,” the centurion replied, “I am not worthy to have You come under my roof. But only say the word, and my servant will be cured. ⁹ For I too am a man under authority, having soldiers under my command. I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.” ¹⁰ Hearing this, Jesus was amazed and said to those following Him, “**I assure you: I have not found anyone in Israel with so great a faith!** ¹¹ **I tell you that many will**

come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³ Then Jesus told the centurion, “Go. As you have believed, let it be done for you.” And his servant was cured that very moment. **Matt 8:5-13** (HCSB)

We often discuss this passage in light of the matter of faith, and rightly so, but what this man’s faith revealed and led to was far more significant than the miraculous, long distance healing of his daughter. It led to the testimonial public acknowledgement of the supreme authority, the Lordship of Christ. The centurion indicated his full understanding of the Lordship of Christ by comparing his own authority over his soldiers and slaves to Jesus’ authority over health, life, and death, the eternal, omnipotent powers of heaven. Only the Lord, eternal God of the universe has that kind of authority. He acknowledged and professed that Jesus is Lord.

How did this centurion come about such faith and knowledge of Christ’s Lordship? After all, He wasn’t even a Jew. He was a gentile, an occupying Roman officer. Luke’s gospel reveals a little more detail about the journey of this man’s faith...Apparently he had come under the positive influence of some faithful, God fearing Jews and had embraced their faith. This led to a kindness and benevolence toward the Jews from this forced occupier. It is also apparent that this centurion and the community of Jews that he governed had begun to learn of, respect and maybe even follow Jesus prior to the healing of the

servant. By the time of the healing, it seems that the centurion had no hesitation in calling Jesus Lord.

Lord of Sabbath(stated by Jesus)

1 At that time Jesus passed through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick and eat some heads of grain. **2** But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, “Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!” **3** He said to them, “**Haven’t you read what David did when he and those who were with him were hungry—⁴ how he entered the house of God, and they ate the sacred bread, which is not lawful for him or for those with him to eat, but only for the priests?⁵ Or haven’t you read in the Law that on Sabbath days the priests in the temple violate the Sabbath and are innocent?⁶ But I tell you that something greater than the temple is here!⁷ If you had known what this means: **I desire mercy and not sacrifice**, you would not have condemned the innocent.⁸ For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” **Matt 12:1-8** (HCSB)**

Jesus made two extremely bold claims about Himself- (1) **He is greater than the temple**. The temple was the place of worship, the place where God’s presence dwelt among the people. It was the holiest place on earth, particularly the holy of holies. To proclaim Himself greater than the temple is the equivalent of saying “I am Lord, supreme authority. I am God.” There is no other way to explain what Jesus said. He was the one to be worship, the Lord.

The other extremely bold claim about Himself- (2) **He is Lord of the Sabbath**. To be Lord of the Sabbath is a claim that He is

the One who established it for rest and worship in conjunction with the seven days of creation.

¹ So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. ² By the seventh day, God completed His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. ³ God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it He rested from His work of creation.¹

Gen 2:1-3 (HCSB)

Jesus bold claim here is that He is the Lord God who blessed the seventh day and declared it holy. He is Lord, supreme authority over the Sabbath, the day of rest and worship.

Lord of wind and sea (Peter's call)

²⁴ But the boat was already over a mile from land, battered by the waves, because the wind was against them. ²⁵ Around three in the morning, He came toward them walking on the sea. ²⁶ When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ Immediately Jesus spoke to them. **"Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."**²⁸ "Lord, if it's You," Peter answered Him, "command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ **"Come!"** He said. And climbing out of the boat, Peter started walking on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid. And beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out His hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, **"You of little faith, why did you doubt?"**³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ Then those in the boat worshiped Him and said, "Truly You are the Son of God!" **Matt 14:24-33 (HCSB)**

Twice Peter called out to Jesus. Both times he addressed Jesus as Lord. The first time Peter was asking for permission to join Jesus in His stroll across the troubled sea. The second time Peter cried out

in desperation for the Lord to rescue him. Only the Lord can walk on the sea. Only the Lord can cause one of His followers to walk on the sea. Only the Lord can rescue. Only the Lord can calm the sea.

Lord of service (washing feet)

4 So He got up from supper, laid aside His robe, took a towel, and tied it around Himself. **5** Next, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around Him. **John 13:4-5 (HCSB)**

12 When Jesus had washed their feet and put on His robe, He reclined again and said to them, **“Do you know what I have done for you? **13** You call Me Teacher and Lord. This is well said, for I am. **14** So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have given you an example that you also should do just as I have done for you. **John 13:12-15 (HCSB)****

This is not so much a proof of Christ's Lordship as it is a lesson for all of us who claim to call Him Lord. We call Him Lord, supreme authority of heaven and earth as well as our own lives, and rightly so. If He, our Lord and Master, washed the disciples feet, we should wash each other's feet!

Thomas Declaration

24 But one of the Twelve, Thomas (called “Twin”), was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in His hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe!” ²⁶ After eight days His disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “**Peace to you!**” ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “**Put your finger here and observe My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Don’t be an unbeliever, but a believer.**” ²⁸ Thomas responded to Him, “My Lord and my God!” **John 20:24-28 (HCSB)**

Thomas, forever labeled the doubter, had not come to the place of fully believing and acknowledging that Jesus was truly the eternal Lord and God. He has seen the miracles and the wisdom of His teaching but his hopes were crushed when the betrayer led the mob to the garden and arrested Jesus leading to His mock trial and horrendous crucifixion. His hope had been crushed that Jesus was truly the Lord’s Messiah.

Rumors had spread like wildfire that Jesus was alive but he just couldn’t muster up enough faith to believe what Jesus had told them, that He would rise again in three days. He would only believe if he could see and touch the wounds. Jesus showed up right in the middle of Thomas’ argument. He showed Thomas the wounds and let him touch them. Jesus was alive! Thomas only words- “My Lord and my God.” The resurrection of Jesus proved His that He was and is Lord.

Returning Lord

1 “Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. **2** In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. **3** If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also.

John 14:1-3 (HCSB)

Jesus hasn’t come back yet so of course this is not proof of His Lordship. But His promise to return will be the final proof, the final revelation of His Lordship. The whole world, every tribe, tongue and nation will declare that Jesus is Lord but for many it will be too late.

Who is Jesus to you? He is Lord of all heaven and earth. But, is He your Lord? You might want to hesitate before you just blurt it out. Do you believe He is the supreme authority, Lord God of heaven and earth, Creator and Master? That’s a good start but understand that the demons of hell believe that also and they tremble. Key question: Is Jesus the Lord, the supreme authority of your life? Does He rule and reign over your decisions, language, home, private life, your work, and your daily walk through life?

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord!’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but [only] the one who does the will of My Father in heaven. **22** On that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in Your name, drive out demons in Your name, and do many miracles in Your name?’ **23** Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you! **Depart from Me, you lawbreakers!**’ **Matt 7:21-23 (HCSB)**

If only those who do the will of the Father will enter the kingdom, what is the will of the Father? I want to know.

Confess and repent of sin.

Believe Christ is Lord

Receive Christ as your personal Lord.

9 if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **Romans 10:8-9 (HCSB)**