

THAT YOU MAY KNOW

The Jesus Who Divides
John 10:19-21
September 4, 2022

“These are not the words of one who is possessed by a demon.
Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?” - John 10:21

I. DEMON POSSESSION?

- Many in the crowd claimed Jesus was possessed not because they were ignorant or mired in a pre-scientific world. They believed it because it is real (Matt. 4:23-25, 8:16, 12:27; Mark 1:39, 5:1-20, 16:9; Acts 19:13; Rom. 8:38; 1 Cor. 10:18-22).
- Now we see only dimly, as in a cloudy mirror. Then (in glory) we will see face to face (1 Cor. 13:11-12).
- This is not the first time Jesus has been accused of having a demon (Matt. 12:22-32; Luke 11:15; John 8:48, 10:21).
- Such an accusation is dangerously close to a deliberate closing of the heart and mind to the clear witness to the Holy Spirit. A sin Jesus describes as “the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 12:31-32).
- The preaching of the gospel and the kingdom of God is not simply about love and acceptance. It is the power of God for the salvation of those who believe. It destroys strongholds (Luke 11:21-23; 1 Cor. 1:22-25).

II. WHO IS JESUS?

- John’s gospel theme continues. Who is this man?
- As always, the crowds are divided. Some are for him, but do not really know him. Some are against him and make grand statements against him. A few believe (Matt 7:13-14, 21-23).
- We must all make a decision about this man. Who is Jesus to you? Our decision (and the actions that follow) will mark forever our eternal destiny (Matt. 25:31-46; John 3:36, 5:24; Rom. 2:7-10; Gal. 6:8; Titus 3:3-7; 1 John 2:25; Jude 1:21).

KNOW: Jesus demands a decision in our lives. We do not fall into knowing Jesus, we follow him based on who he is. There are no “blind leaps of faith” in the Christian faith.

DO: Consider who Jesus claims to be. Decide for or against him.

Suggested Reading:

The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel (LifePoint Library #232.908)

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis (LifePoint Library #230 LEW)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read John 10:19-21

1. What exactly was it about Jesus’ words that divided this crowd?
2. Why do you think demonic possession is so controversial today?
3. What proof did those in favor of Jesus offer to counter the claim of the non-believers in the crowd? Is it a convincing argument?
4. Why, do you think, are the crowds still having so much trouble figuring out who Jesus is?
5. Why, do you think, are people today still so confused as to the identity of Jesus? What can be done about that?
6. Who is Jesus to you? What implications have there been in your life as a result of your answer? Would those who know you know about your decision?