TITLE: Who is Jesus to you?

TEXT: Lk. 5:1-8; 1 Jn. 2:3-6; James 1:22-25; Mt. 7:21-27; Ro. 10:9

INTRODUCTION: If asked the question, who or what is Jesus to you, what would be your reply?

As a Christian our most common responses to this particular question may be: He is my Savior or He is my Lord or He is my Master or He is my Lord, Savior and Master..

Often, we have a tendency within the Church to use these words as synonymous with each other.

If Jesus is one in our life, then He has to be all three.

Our thought seems to be, when I became a Christian Jesus became my Lord, my Savior and my Master.

All three being the result of our salvation experience.

Well, the fact of the matter is that these words are not necessarily synonymous with each other in our life as a Christian.

Jesus can be our Master and not be our Lord.

Although if Jesus is our Lord He will also be our Master.

And if He is our Lord He will be our Savior as well, but if Jesus is just our master and not our Lord He will not be our Savior.

Got you confused yet?

Point is, these are three words that we throw around a lot within the Church and a lot of the time we use them as if they are all synonymous with each other when, in fact, they are not.

They should all be synonymous in our life as a Christian but more often than we would like to admit they are not.

Let me illustrate this from Scripture this morning…

**Luke 5:1 -8 (NIV)  
1One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret (,*ghen-nay-sar-et)* with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, 2he saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.**

**4When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”**

**5Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”**

**6When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.**

**8When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”**

Did you pick up on how Peter uses two different titles in addressing Jesus here in these passages of Scripture?

Jesus borrows Peter’s boat to use as a podium to speak and teach to the people from…

When Jesus finishes He calls to Peter to take his boat back out into deep water and throws down the fishing nets…

Peter and his companions had been out fishing in the same spot all night and hadn’t caught a thing and he tells Jesus so, but because Jesus asks him to do it anyway Peter takes the boat back out into deep water….

Now notice how Peter addresses Jesus….

**5Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”**

At this point Peter address Jesus as master.

After Peter obeys Jesus request and takes the boat out and catches a great number of fish, Peter then addresses Jesus differently….

**7So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.**

**8When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”**

How come Peter calls Jesus master in verse 5 but addresses Him as Lord in verse 8?

Is it because the words are synonymous with each other? NO! Not at all!

In verse 5 Peter just knew Jesus as master but by verse 8 something happened within Peter that changed his relationship with Jesus so that he now addresses Him as Lord.

We need to stop and look at the definition of these two words--master and Lord…

Master--

***ep-is-tat'-ace***

**an *appointee* *over*, that is, *commander* (*teacher*).**

What had Jesus just borrowed Peter’s boat to do?

To teach the people. After Jesus had finished teaching the people Peter simply address Jesus as Master, as teacher.

I had the experience of watching a master at work one time… Several years ago we tore out our back porch and built a deck on the back of the house. I can usually muddle along and figure most things out when it comes to a project like this but there are some things that I really struggle with.

One of the things I struggle with is cutting stair stringers. For me there are too many opposing angles to be cut to make them come out right. So I called a friend in construction who came down and cut the stair stringers for me.

And what would have taken me a couple hours or more to do he did in about 20 minutes.

This man is very good at what he does and as I watched him cut the stringers I realized that he was the master. (at least at cutting stringers)

He had mastered what he was doing and if I were to learn how to do it correctly I would learn from someone like him..

After Jesus had finished teaching, Peter recognized Him as Master, someone who had mastered the subject he was teaching and could convey it to his listeners…

Then Jesus tells Peter to take his boat out into the same water that Peter had been fishing in all night long and hadn’t caught a single fish. Because Jesus had already won Peters respect as a master or teacher of the things of God Peter obeys….

After Peter obeys Jesus and goes out and catches two boat loads of fish he recognizes Jesus as Lord.

Lord

***koo'-ree-os* From κῦρος kuros (*supremacy*); *supreme* in authority, controller--Lord.**

Peter had recognized Jesus as a master, someone who had mastered the subject he was teaching upon, but after he obeyed Jesus and saw the fruit of obedience to Jesus, Peter then addresses Jesus as Lord.

One who is supreme in authority, the controller…

It wasn’t until Peter obeyed Jesus and followed Jesus instructions that Peter changed Master to Lord.

The same can be true in our faith.

We can accept Jesus as our master, our teacher, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that we have made Him our Lord.

Jesus only becomes our Lord one way and that is through our obedience to Him as teacher. Our surrendering ourselves to His authority.

**1 John 2:3 -6 (NIV)  
3We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 4The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**

**5But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: 6Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.**

In other words, to just hear what Jesus teaches is not what makes Him the Lord of our life---Jesus only becomes our Lord as we obey what He teaches…

**James 1:22 -25 (NIV)  
22Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.**

**22Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.**

Claiming Jesus as Lord is only possible through our surrender and obedience to Him.

Whenever we say “no Lord” it is an oxymoron—a contradiction in terms. Whenever we say no to Jesus, when we fail to follow His instruction, we have not allowed Him Lordship of our life in that moment.

Because Jesus is only Lord through our obedience.

Jesus illustrates this truth to us powerfully in Scripture…

**Matt. 7:21 -27 (NIV)  
21“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ 23Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’**

**24“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”**

**“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.**

**22Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ 23Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’**

What is the problem with this group that will one day address Jesus as Lord but Jesus will cast them from His presence?

They call Jesus their Lord without allowing Him that position in their life..

They may have accepted Him as Master, as teacher, but if they fail to follow through with obedience to His teaching then He is not the Lord of their life.

And if they address Him as Lord when they have not given Him Lordship then they are bearing false testimony. They are lying.

And what they will hear Jesus say to them on the day when all will have to stand before Him and give an account is: “Away from Me you evildoers…

Salvation comes through Lordship not through merely accepting Jesus as Master-teacher….

**Rom. 10:9 (NIV)  
9That 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.**

It is not enough to just accept Jesus as our master but we need to accept Him as our Lord if we are to receive the promise of salvation.

Frances Bacon once said:

*It is not what men eat, but what they digest that makes them strong; not what we gain, but what we save that makes us rich; not what we read, but what we remember that makes us learned; not what we preach or pray, but what we practice and believe that makes us Christians.*

A.W. Tozer said:

*The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith. The two are at opposite sides of the same coin.*

The term Christian in scripture comes from the Greek word **khris-tee-an-os'**

**It means a follower of Christ or a Christ like one.**

If we call ourselves a Christian what we are literally saying to the world around us is that we are a Christ-like one. Or we are one who is striving to be or live our life like Jesus.

If you want to get a look at Jesus take a look at me and I will reflect Him to you…

EXAMPLE: As a result of poor planning a man needed some same-day dry cleaning done before he left on a business trip. He remembered one store with a huge sign, "One-Hour Dry Cleaners," on the other side of town, so he drove out of his way to drop off a suit. After filling out the tag, he told the clerk, "I need this in an hour."

She said, "I can't get this back to you until Thursday."

He said, "I thought you did dry cleaning in an hour?"

"No," she replied, "That's just the name of the store."

Those of us who bear the name of Christ--Christian, but fail to act like the one whose name we bear, create confusion and even disillusionment for those who have yet come to believe.

If we call ourselves Christian and don’t act like Jesus would act, then we bear a false and even misleading sign to those in the world around us that we have been called to reach with the Gospel of Christ, many times hindering them from coming to Jesus..

If we hear what Christ says in His Word but don’t follow it up with the action of obedience, then we are nothing more than hearers of the Word.

We have built our spiritual house on sand and one day scripture says that the spiritual house that is built on sand will come crashing down around us.

Those who not merely hear the word but put the word into practice in their life is like the man who built his house on the rock---**25The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.**

There is a coming day when we will all have to “face the music” where our faith is concerned….

The expression "face the music" is said to have originated in Japan. According to the story, one man in the imperial orchestra couldn't play a note. Being a person of great influence and wealth, he had demanded that he be given a place in the group because he wanted to "perform" before the emperor.

The conductor agreed to let him sit in the second row of the orchestra, even though he couldn't read music. He was given a flute, and when a concert would begin, he'd raise his instrument, pucker his lips, and move his fingers. He would go through all the motions of playing, but he never made a sound. This deception continued for two years.

Then a new conductor took over. He told the orchestra that he wanted to audition each player personally. One by one they performed in his presence. Then came the flutist's turn. He was frantic with worry, so he pretended to be sick. However, the doctor who was ordered to examine him declared that he was perfectly well. The conductor insisted that the man appear and demonstrate his skill. Shamefully he had to confess that he was a fake. He was unable to "face the music."

In the realm of Christianity, many professing believers go through the motions, but they are only pretenders.

Someday we will all be called upon to stand before the Judge of heaven and earth, and any deception will be revealed.

God will then separate the sheep from the goats, the "phonies" from the real Christians. No one will be able to hide in the crowd. Each of us will be made to "face the music."

The only way that any of us will be able to face the music then is to embrace Jesus as our Lord now.

To give Jesus Lordship of our life.

To not merely embrace Jesus as Master, but embrace Him as Lord.

Lordship demands obedience!

It all comes down to, who Jesus is to me…

Is He, not just master but have I allowed Him to become my Lord.

Only when we have made Him our Lord does He become our Savior.

**9That 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.**

Who is Jesus to you this morning?

Have you made Him your Lord so that He will become your savior?