

Mk series pt 56

- If Jesus is God, why didn't He know everything?
 - Often Muslims
 - Or other historically heretical groups
- A temptation
 - To defend the doctrine we hold without taking the passage seriously
 - I know that well...
 - "it doesn't mean that because that's not allowed"
 - DOES NOT give us "this is what it means"
 - This doesn't refute the deity of Christ
 - It reinforces HOW we should view the idea that Jesus was truly God and truly man.

Mark 13:32–37 (NASB95)

³²"But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

³³"Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.

³⁴"It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert.

³⁵"Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—

³⁶in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep.

³⁷"What I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!' "

- That day – the coming of Christ
- HOW could the Son not know?
 - Theories 3
 - 1 He's not God
 - P1: God is omniscient
 - P2: Jesus isn't
 - C: Jesus isn't God.
 - Really NOT an argument that the Bible teaches Jesus isn't God.
 - It's an argument that the incarnation is logically impossible.
 - And that's its weakness.
 - Amounts to – I don't get it, so it isn't true.
 - 2 It doesn't mean that
 - Luther? – not in the Son's authority
 - 3 It's how the incarnation worked
 - Our tendency is to emphasize the deity of Christ but not His humanity
 - And we may be less grateful as a result.
 - We may not be paying attention...
 - **Luke 2:52 (ESV) ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.**
 - How can God increase in wisdom?
 - **Matthew 4:2 (ESV) ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.**
 - How can God be hungry?
 - Jesus was really human!
 - Just not ONLY human
- How much could Jesus bench press?

- 180 lbs.? - Humanly
- Or anything. - Divinely
- How this seems to have worked in the are of Jesus' knowledge
 - Sometimes He knows things supernaturally
 - Jesus knew all people
 - **John 2:24 (ESV)²⁴But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people**
 - Jesus knew who didn't really believe and who would betray Him
 - **John 6:64b (ESV) For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.**
 - In Jn 1:48 He "saw" Nathaniel
 - Not human sight
 - Jn 16:30 and 21:17 Philip and Peter both state that Jesus knows all things.
 - He voluntarily limited His use of power and His divine knowledge as part of the incarnation.
 - Humanly Jesus didn't know the day or hour and chose not to access that divine omniscience which would have given Him the answer.
- 2 natures – divine and human (God and man)
 - Bible affirms BOTH of these.
- It is EQUALLY important to know that Jesus is human as it is to know He is God
 - Gnosticism – footprints in the sand, not.
 - **1 John 4:2–3 (NASB95) ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;**
- How unaware was He?
 - My theory – as given by the Father's instruction or the Spirit's leading.
 - **John 5:19 (NASB95) ¹⁹Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.**
 - **John 8:28 (NASB95) ²⁸So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.**
- Mark drops subtle bombs about the deity of Christ
 - Note – the order is significant
 - "no one knows...
 - Not even the angels
 - Nor the Son
 - Only the Father
 - The Son is above the angels and is not one of them
 - To show you how important this is... here's Hebrews 1
 - **Hebrews 1:5–14 (NASB95)**
⁵**For to which of the angels did He ever say, "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again, "I will be a Father to Him And He shall be a Son to Me"?**
⁶**And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him."**
 - Worshipped by those who worship God alone

- **Revelation 19:10 (NASB95) ¹⁰Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”**

⁷And of the angels He says, “Who makes His angels winds, And His ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸But of the Son He says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.

⁹“You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness above Your companions.”

¹⁰And, “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the works of Your hands;

¹¹They will perish, but You remain; And they all will become old like a garment,

¹²And like a mantle You will roll them up; Like a garment they will also be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.”

¹³But to which of the angels has He ever said, “Sit at My right hand, Until I make Your enemies A footstool for Your feet”?

¹⁴Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

- That’s how significant this is.
- Some say “But angels are sons”
 - Job 1 – “sons of God”
 - Jesus is CLEARLY the SON in a different and unique sense.
- The verse contains a paradox
 - Conservatives worry about the lack of knowledge
 - Liberals worry that Jesus is too aware of His divine Sonship
 - He’s clearly THE Son in relation to THE Father
 - Not merely the Son of Man
 - Ironical that Muslims use it.
 - He is both God and man,
 - The two natures of Christ is a solution to taking the Bible seriously.
 - Not an invention of later Christians
- Did Jesus do everything “as a man”
 - Implying miracles are to be expected at equal or higher rates
 - Unclear if it’s kenosis or not
 - Misses other teachings
 - Wrong teachings are often just right teachings distorted out of proportion
 - Or missing other balancing truths
 - Funhouse mirror.
 - I agree but there’s more
 - Mission, direction
 - Kenosis –
 - Jesus stopped being God
 - Having and not using an attribute is not the same as NOT having it.
 - Omniscience, Omnipotence, Self-sustaining
- Debate – did Jesus KNOW or not?
 - If He was God He would know!
 - Do me a favor, close your eyes.
 - Can you see me or not?

- Can – capacity
 - Can't – current self-imposed limitation.
 - Jesus
 - Can – omniscience as God
 - Can't – current self-imposed limitation
 - Does Jesus know now?
 - Phil 2
 - In principle He is exalted.
 - Still human but exalted
 - Some things have changed.
 - Acts 1
 - They don't... He isn't mentioned
 - Rev –
 - It's a lot more detail
 - It's from Jesus, who seems to know a lot more at that point
 - Jesus too had to walk in faith
 - Wow.
 - Tempted like us
 - Suffered alongside us
 - Sweat great drops of blood
 - Not like Superman
 - Pretends it hurts
- What does “day or hour” mean?
 - Calendar date and time of day?
 - Complete lack of awareness of time period?
- “day or hour” sidebar
 - Most often it is a literal day and a literal hour

1. The Olivet Discourse uses a unique term here, unlike other places that speak of a “day” “of THAT day and hour”

2. In the LXX it's used to refer to a general time of God acting

3. Not limited to a 24 period but a “time” in the sense of a period of time in history

4. Mk 13:33 adds to day and hour, “you do not know when the time is”

5. This is generic for sure.

6. And it stands as a substitute for day and hour

7. It's uncertainty that requires vigilance

8. Mk 1:15 uses “time” to refer to all of Jesus' ministry, not a day or hour literally.

9. **Mark 1:15 (NASB95) ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”**

10. Elsewhere it is used for longer periods of time

11. Mk 10:30 – the “present age” or all the time between then and the final kingdom

12. Mk 11:13 – a general time of year. “The season for figs”

13. Mk 12:2 – for “harvest time”
 - YET
 - The Olivet Discourse uses a unique term here, unlike other places that speak of a “day”
 - “of THAT day and hour”
 - 1- It's the only place this combination of words is used in the synoptics
 - 2- In the LXX it's used to refer to a general time of God acting
 - Not limited to a 24 period but a “time” in the sense of a period of time in history
 - Mk 13:33 adds to day and hour, “you do not know when the time is”
 - This is generic for sure.
 - And it stands as a substitute for day and hour
 - It's uncertainty that requires vigilance
 - Mk 1:15 uses “time” to refer to all of Jesus' ministry, not a day or hour literally.
 - **Mark 1:15 (NASB95) ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”**
 - Elsewhere it is used for longer periods of time
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 - Mk 12:2 – for “harvest time”

- **Acts 1:6–7 (NASB95)** ⁶*So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”* ⁷*He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;*
 - “times or seasons”
 - Clearly very general language
 - Wait – if “day or hour” allows for knowing times and seasons then how can this be?
 - Objection: that was only at the time!
 - Reponse: Jesus didn’t say “for now”, He just said it was knowledge that simply was not for them, and therefore not for us.
 - Only the generation who sees it will know it.
 - Preterist = 70
 - Futurist = who knows
 - And I would invite all futurists to join me in this.
- Put it all together
 - We don’t know
 - That day and hour
 - The time
 - The times and seasons
 - Jesus didn’t know... because He’s our inspiration of living while not knowing
 - Not trying to calculate it... trying to live in the knowledge of His coming
- APPLICATION
 - Jesus has clear application in mind for us.

³³**“Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.**

³⁴**“It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert.**

³⁵**“Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—**

³⁶**in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep.**

³⁷**“What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’ ”**

- Three things
 - Tasks
 - I think we should assume we have these
 - But not that they need to be discovered.
 - The danger = ignoring our tasks
 - **Colossians 3:23 (NASB95)** ²³*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,*
 - You may still discover something great
 - But what you do now must be seen as great too.
 - Discontent can lead to unfaithfulness.
 - Youth pastor – I hardly study now.
 - Watch
 - An attitude that He is coming
 - Each generation anticipating
 - Predicting it isn’t the only flaw to avoid!
 - Avoid the FLAW of not anticipating
 - As opposed to laziness
 - As a kid

- I just couldn't see how what I did then impacted the future.
 - That's what parents are for.
 - Luke 21:34 (NASB95) ³⁴“Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap;
 - Dissipation
 - Waste
 - Entertainment absorbs
 - sin
 - Drunkenness
 - Substance abuse – numbness
 - Worries of life
 - Cares and concerns
 - Without proper, eternal perspective
 - If we could calculate the year it would be dangerous
 - Because if you know it's coming in 10 years or 50 years the admonition fails.
 - Most generations know it's nowhere near them
 - The point is to be ready now.
 - The information that it would take so long is a temptation to be less vigilant
 - Jesus warns us about this temptation a lot
 - Are you falling to it?
- God doesn't want us to know WHEN until we are in it.
 - He wants us to be ready at all times.
 - **Acts 1:6–8 (NASB95)**

⁶So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

⁸but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

 - Take this in...
 - They had ALL of Jesus' teaching (Olivet discourse)
 - Yet it's not FOR THEM to know WHEN
 - Yet we will figure it out!?
 - If pre-mil, be humble
 - Just evangelize.
 - Why does He want us THAT generation to know?
 - 1- because that generation will need it badly
 - Such intense persecution
 - Strong delusion/deception
 - This prophecy will encourage them greatly.
 - 2- Because not knowing can help us
 - **³³“Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.**
 - Not knowing LEADS US to take heed and keep on the alert.
- If Jesus came back right now
 - Would you be happy with the life you have been living?
- Next week
 - The cross

