

I AM | Pastor Lance Courtney | 05.01.2022  
Replay message at: <http://www.northpointeFL.org/messages>

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [that is, Christ]: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.... You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."—C.S. Lewis in Mere Christianity

This morning, Pastor Lance asked us which statement do you believe—Jesus is a Liar, Jesus is a Lunatic, or HE IS LORD?

- Honestly, where did you stand before the message...and where do you stand now?
  - If your answer has changed...why?

### Read John 8:31-47

**John 15:4-5** "4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

**John 14:6-7** "6 Jesus said to him "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him."

**John 8:31-32** "31 If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

"Jesus is the truth that sets you free...not free to do as you please, but free from sin. He is our source of truth, the perfect standard of what is right. He has set us free from the slavery of sin."—Pastor Lance

- Before this morning, what would you say to someone who asked you what "the truth will set you free" means?
- Did your understanding of this verse change today? If so, how?

"The real freedom is NOT to do what we want, but to live for God. To live as God intended us to live: For Him and In Him." —Pastor Lance

- **John 8:36** says "If the Son sets you free, you are free" do you believe this?
- What have you been set free from?
- What do you need to be set free from now? (addiction, anger, greed, jealousy, sexual immorality, ect.)
  - If comfortable, share with your group asking for prayer. If not, pray for Jesus to set you free from this sin during your personal prayer time.
  - What are some things you have seen others set free from?
  - Take time as a group to pray for each other and anyone you know who needs prayer—also thanking God for setting you and others free from their sins.

The people listening to Jesus were not understanding what He was saying. Their own sins were keeping them from believing what Jesus was telling them. Pastor Lance said some things that kept these people (and us) from believing fully in Jesus were (are): stubbornness, pride, and prejudices. These people who did not believe also called God their own Father. There are many who believe in God, but don't fully believe and follow His commands—because of their love for their own sins.

- What keeps you from believing fully in Jesus?
  - If nothing now, what has kept you from believing in the past?

### Re-read John 8:42-47

**1 John 4:6** "6 But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception"

- Who do you listen to?
  - Do you listen to God, His Word and His teachings?
  - Do you listen to the world: the news, books, movie stars/celebrities, politicians, friends, co-workers, family members not rooted in Christ, false doctrine or teaching that speaks to your feelings and your desires, aiming to please the beliefs of the world and gain the acceptance of the world?
- How do you ensure you are listening and following Him and not the world and its teachings?
- Oftentimes, the best lies include partial truths in order to fully deceive the target.
  - What are some lies that are tempting or easy to believe?
  - How do you know what is truth and what is partial truth?
  - Who/where do you go to when you don't know if something is true?