

RABBI OR LORD?
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One of the passages that I read, preparing for Wednesday night Bible study contained a couple of words that stood out like never before. Here is the passage with the two words in bold text. ²⁰ Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. ²¹ As they were eating, He said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me." ²² Being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, "Surely not I, **Lord**?" ²³ And He answered, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. ²⁴ The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." ²⁵ And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, "Surely it is not I, **Rabbi**?" Jesus *said to him, "You have said it yourself." (Matthew 26:20-25)

Just imagine the shocked look on the disciples' faces? Deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, "Surely not I, Lord?"

See the difference in the way they referred to Jesus? They all called Him Lord except one—Judas Iscariot. The disciples called Jesus Lord, Master, because they recognized Him as their Master. The word Lord in verse 22 translates from the Greek to mean Messiah. The disciples' questioning, "Surely not I, Lord?" encourages believers to examine their own hearts and motives regularly. Is He your Lord (Master), or is He just a good Teacher who gives information?

Using Lord signifies the disciples' acknowledgment of Jesus' authority and divinity. Their question, "Surely not I?" reveals their uncertainty and self-doubt, reflecting the human tendency to question one's faithfulness. This moment serves as a reminder of human frailty and the need for divine grace. This phrase also connects to prophetic themes, as Jesus' betrayal was foretold in the Old Testament. One example is, **"Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me."** (Psalm 41:9) This verse speaks of betrayal by a close friend, pointing to the fulfillment of prophecy in Jesus' life.

There is no record where Judas referred to Jesus as Lord. Judas called Jesus Rabbi (Good Teacher). Judas's question, "Surely it is not I, **Rabbi**?" is both a denial and a form of address that reveals his relationship with Jesus. The term Rabbi was a respectful title for a teacher or master, indicating Judas's acknowledgment of Jesus's authority and role as a teacher. However, his use of Rabbi instead of Lord, which the other disciples used, may suggest a lack of deeper spiritual recognition of Jesus' divine nature. This moment occurs during the Last Supper, a significant event in the Christian tradition, where Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper. Judas's question is ironic, as he already had conspired with the chief priests to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, as recorded earlier in the chapter.

We shift now to us. Please understand that I want you to examine your relationship with Jesus. Therefore, I ask you, have you made Jesus Lord of your life, or do you only see Him as a teacher? Just as it was a relationship issue with the disciples, it is a relationship issue with whoever has not made Jesus Lord of their life. Could it be a control issue? Perhaps it is a spiritual growth issue that you have not grown to the point of total surrender to Jesus. After all, we all have to mature in Jesus and grow our faith and trust in Him.

Relationships are an essential part of life. Think about how much joy is in your life due to your relationship with your spouse. More than likely, you've made some sacrifices for your spouse. Not only your spouse, but your children also. Not to mention grandkids, if you have them. I suggest that all of these relationships bring joy and excitement to your life. Now stop and visualize not having any

relationships. You are in this thing called life all alone. I believe this would be a horrible situation to be in.

The reality is, as much joy as your spouse, children, or grandchildren bring you, Jesus will bring more joy than you ever thought possible. “These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.” (John 15:11) Jesus wants the same thing for you as He wanted for the disciples.

I suppose that some, after being immersed into Jesus, are satisfied, feel secure, and that’s all they want. They do not realize that Jesus wants more for them. “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15)

If you question whether Jesus wants a relationship with you, check these verses out. “¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you.” (John 15:12-14)

What about Jesus' relationship with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus? “³³ When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, ³⁴ and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus wept.” (John 11:33-35)

I pray that this has challenged you to examine your relationship with Jesus. If He is not the Lord of your life, and you need to deepen your relationship with Him, by all means, please do. I leave you with this verse: “who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,” (II Timothy 1:9)

When totally surrendering to Jesus and making Him Lord of your life, you have the Creator of everything working for your good because He loves and died for you. Have a blessed week.

Lord of My Life:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_JtArOegl3c&list=RD_JtArOegl3c&start_radio=1