

# THE JESUS DILEMMA, Part 3

Half Empty Critics

Pastor Miles McPherson – May 15, 2011

Matthew 12:22-24; Matthew 26:57-68

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**A critical mouth speaks from the overflow of a critical heart.  
The criticized is not defined by the critic.  
If Jesus was criticized, you should expect criticism.**

**1. Attempts to discredit Jesus' miracles acknowledge that He performed them. Matthew 12:22-24**

Jesus' critics claimed He had a demon. Mark 3:22  
**Jesus' response - Live with power.**

**2. The pursuit of false testimony proves that Jesus' word was truth. Matthew 26:14-16; Matthew 26:57-68; Matthew 27:1-5**

Jesus' critics looked for ways to accuse Him. Mark 3:2  
Jesus' critics tried to trap Him in His words. Matthew 22:15-34  
Jesus' critics paid people to lie. Matthew 26:14-16; Matthew 27:1-5  
**Jesus' response - Live in truth.**

*The only reason someone attempts to prevent a truth to prevail is because they are threatened by that truth.*

**3. Attempts to stone Jesus for blasphemy prove He claimed to be God. Matthew 26:65; Daniel 7**

Jesus claimed equality with God. John 5:16-18  
Jesus claimed to be the 'I AM'. Exodus 3; John 8:58  
Jesus claimed to be the Anointed One. Luke 4:16-30  
Jesus forgave sin. Luke 5:21; Mark 2:6  
Jesus accepts worship. Matthew 8:1; John 9:38; Matthew 14:33  
**Jesus' response - Live in relationship with God.**

**4. Plans to sabotage Jesus' resurrection prove they feared an empty tomb. Matthew 26:62-64**

**Jesus' response - Live with eternal hope.**

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**Read the Bible in a year.**

*Don't forget to Read, Reflect and Respond.*

MON - 2 Kings 7-9

FRI - 2 Kings 17-18

TUES - 2 Kings 10-12; John 1

SAT - 2 Kings 19-21

WED - 2 Kings 13-14; John 2

SUN - 2 Kings 22-23; John 4

THU - 2 Kings 15-16; John 3