

Sermon Outline  
Burton Memorial United Methodist Church  
“Is Jesus big enough in my life?”  
(Part I of “Jesus is Lord”)  
May 3, 2026

Scripture

Deuteronomy 6:4-9  
Romans 12:1-2

Core Idea and purpose

**Core theological ideas from earlier sermons in the series:**

- None. This is the first sermon in a series

**Core theological idea:** If Jesus is truly Lord, then he ought to be big enough in our lives to be recognized as such.

**Challenge/purpose:** To encourage people to surrender all that they are and all that they have to the loving authority of Jesus.

The Sermon

The word Lord, with a capital ‘L’, is loaded with meaning and power. When used in the Old Testament, it always refers to God, the creator of all that is seen and unseen. This word refers to God because it is used as a substitute for God’s holy name.

In Hebrew, God’s holy name is יהוה. The English transliteration of God’s holy name is YHWH. Our Jewish brothers and sisters are not sure how to pronounce God’s holy name because they never say it. It’s too holy and great for a finite human to pronounce. To remind themselves not to speak God’s holy name, they add the vowels for Adonai to YHWH. (Adonai is the Hebrew word for LORD) God’s holy name with the Adonai vowels added to it is: יהוה. So, when the Jewish reader sees YHWH with the Adonai vowels, he/she says Adonai (LORD) instead of trying to pronounce YHWH.<sup>1</sup>

The New Testament is a continuation of the Old Testament. In the New Testament, however, the word Lord, with a capital ‘L’, almost always refers to Jesus – equating Jesus with God. We call Jesus Lord, with a capital ‘L’, because Jesus is fully human and fully God. He is Lord.

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<sup>1</sup> This is also how we get the word Jehova as God’s name. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, German scholars pronounced YHWH using the Adonai vowels. The German pronunciation (transliteration) of YHWH with the Adonai vowels added to it creates Jehova.

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This begs the question: Is Jesus big enough in our lives to be recognized as Lord? Let me ask this again: Is Jesus big enough in our lives to be recognized as Lord?

There are three questions that will help us determine if Jesus is big enough in our lives to be recognized as Lord. They are: 1) What do I believe? 2) How do I live? and 3) How much do my beliefs align with how I live?

I invite you to look at this slide. The yellow circle represents “What do I believe?” and the blue circle represents “How do I live?” Green represents how much the two align with each other. (Remember, yellow and blue make green.) Notice, there’s only a little bit of green. A life with a small Jesus has very little green. This person may attend worship every Sunday and even be an active church volunteer but does not surrender most aspects of his/her life to the loving authority of Jesus.

Now look at this slide. There’s only one circle and it’s all green. A life with a big Jesus has lots of green. How this person believes is in total alignment with how this person lives. Every day, this person surrenders all aspects of his/her life to the loving authority of Jesus.

In Romans 12:1-2 says, “...brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Did you hear that? We are to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to the Lord. This means surrendering all that we have and all that we are to the loving authority of Christ. The more we do this, the bigger Jesus becomes in our lives.

Jesus teaches us that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord God with all our hearts, souls, mind, and strength. Remember, Jesus is Lord. So, Jesus is telling us to love him with all our hearts, souls, mind, and strength. Jesus also tells us that to love him is to obey him. So, we must surrender our hearts, souls, mind, and strength to the loving authority of Jesus. Jesus becomes big in our lives when Jesus has authority over our hearts, souls, mind, and strength. Let me say this again: Jesus becomes big in our lives when Jesus has authority over our hearts, souls, mind, and strength.

Our hearts and souls is where we keep our attitudes, desires, wills, and inclinations. Everything that creates the very essence of who we are. If our attitudes, desires, wills, and inclinations conform to the love and justice of Jesus, then Jesus becomes bigger in our lives. Of course, the opposite is also true. If

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our attitudes, desires, wills, and inclinations do not conform to the love and justice of Jesus, then Jesus becomes smaller in our lives.

Our minds is where we keep our opinions and thoughts. If our opinions and thoughts conform to the love and justice of Jesus, then Jesus becomes bigger in our lives. Of course, the opposite is also true. If our opinions and thoughts do not conform to the love and justice of Jesus, then Jesus becomes smaller in our lives. Oh, by the way, this includes our political opinions.

Our strengths include our physical abilities, positions of authority, influence, and money. If our use of physical abilities, positions of authority, influence, and money conform to the love and justice of Jesus, then Jesus becomes bigger in our lives. Of course, the opposite is also true. If our use of physical abilities, positions of authority, influence, and money do not conform to the love and justice of Jesus, then Jesus becomes smaller in our lives. Please note that money is part of our strengths.

There’s a movie called “Hacksaw Ridge”. It is a true story about a Christian Pacifist named Desmond Doss. As a young boy, he nearly killed his brother out of rage and then, a few years later, came close to killing his father with a gun in a desperate effort to protect his mother. From that point on, he promised God to never raise a gun against another person. At the outbreak of World War II, he enlisted in the Army as a medic with the understanding that he would not have to carry a rifle. However, upon arrival for training, his chain of command ordered him to carry and use a rifle. After enduring ridicule, beatings and court-martial, Desmond maintained his integrity and kept his promise to God. He found himself going into combat without a weapon.

At the battle of Okinawa, Desmond’s unit scaled a large ridge known as ‘Hacksaw Ridge’ and attacked the Japanese. When his unit was forced to retreat, he stayed behind and searched for the missing wounded and, single handedly, lowered them down the ridge into safety. After lowering down a soldier, he’d pray, “Lord, just one more. Let me get one more.” Then he’d run back into enemy occupied territory to retrieve another wounded American soldier. He did this all night long and saved 75 men. For this action, he became the only Conscientious Objector to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor.<sup>2</sup> In the life of Desmond Doss, Jesus was big enough to be recognized as Lord because he placed his heart, soul, mind, and strength under the loving authority of Jesus.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.historyvshollywood.com/reelfaces/hacksaw-ridge/> ;  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hacksaw\\_Ridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hacksaw_Ridge) ;  
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So, we ask ourselves: Is Jesus big enough in my life to be recognized as Lord?

Let's pray.

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Outline

- I. The word Lord, with a capital ‘L’, is loaded with meaning and power.
- A. When used in the Old Testament, it always refers to God, the creator of all that is seen and unseen.
- This word refers to God because it is used as a substitute for God’s holy name.
- B. In Hebrew, God’s holy name is **יהוה**.
- The English transliteration of God’s holy name is YHWH.
  - Our Jewish brothers and sisters are not sure how to pronounce God’s holy name because they never say it.
    - It’s too holy and great for a finite human to pronounce it.
- C. To remind themselves not to speak God’s holy name, they add the vowels for Adonai to YHWH. (Adonai is the Hebrew word for LORD)
- God’s holy name with the Adonai vowels added to it is: **יהוה**.
  - So, when the Jewish reader sees YHWH with the Adonai vowels, he/she says Adonai (LORD) instead of trying to pronounce YHWH.<sup>3</sup>
- D. The New Testament is a continuation of the Old Testament.
- In the New Testament, however, the word Lord, with a capital ‘L’, almost always refers to Jesus – equating Jesus with God.
  - We call Jesus Lord, with a capital ‘L’, because Jesus is fully human and fully God.
  - This makes him Lord.
- II. This begs the question: Is Jesus big enough in our lives to be recognized as Lord?

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A. Let me ask this again: Is Jesus big enough in our lives to be recognized as Lord?

B. There are three questions that will help us determine if Jesus is big enough in our lives to be recognized as Lord. They are:

- 1) What do I believe?
- 2) How do I live?  
and
- 3) How much do my beliefs align with how I live?

C. I invite you to look at this slide.

- The yellow circle represents “What do I believe?”
- and the blue circle represents “How do I live?”
- Green represents how much the two align with each other.  
(Remember, yellow and blue make green.)
- Notice, there’s only a little bit of green.
  - A life with a small Jesus has very little green.
  - This person may attend worship every Sunday and even be an active church volunteer but most aspects of his/her life are not surrendered to the loving authority of Jesus.

D. Now look at this slide.

- There’s only one circle and it’s all green.
- A life with a big Jesus has lots of green.
  - This person’s life is in total alignment with his/her beliefs.
  - Every day, this person surrenders all aspects of his/her life to the loving authority of Jesus.

III. In Romans 12:1-2 says, “...brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

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- A. Did you hear that? We are to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to the Lord.
  - B. This means surrendering all that we have and all that we are to the loving authority of Christ.
  - C. The more we do this, the bigger Jesus becomes in our lives.
- IV. Jesus teaches us that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord God with all our hearts, souls, mind, and strength.
- A. Remember, Jesus is also referred to as Lord.
    - So, Jesus is telling us to love him with all our hearts, souls, mind, and strength.
    - Jesus also tells us that to love him is to obey him.
    - So, we must surrender our hearts, souls, mind, and strength to the loving authority of Jesus.
    - Jesus becomes big in our lives when Jesus has authority over our hearts, souls, mind, and strength.
    - Let me say this again: Jesus becomes big in our lives when Jesus has authority over our hearts, souls, mind, and strength.
  - B. Our hearts and souls is where we keep our attitudes, desires, wills, and inclinations.
    - Everything that creates the very essence of who we are.
    - If our attitudes, desires, wills, and inclinations conform to the love and justice of Jesus, then Jesus becomes bigger in our lives.
    - Of course, the opposite is also true.
      - If our attitudes, desires, wills, and inclinations do not conform to the love and justice of Jesus, then Jesus becomes smaller in our lives.
  - C. Our minds is where we keep our opinions and thoughts.
    - If our opinions and thoughts conform to the love and justice of Jesus, then Jesus becomes bigger in our lives.

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- Of course, the opposite is also true.
    - If our opinions and thoughts do not conform to the love and justice of Jesus, then Jesus becomes smaller in our lives.
  - Oh by the way, this includes our political opinions.
- D. Our strengths include our physical abilities, positions of authority, influence, and money.
- If our use of physical abilities, positions of authority, influence, and money conform to the love and justice of Jesus, then Jesus becomes bigger in our lives.
  - Of course, the opposite is also true.
    - If our use of physical abilities, positions of authority, influence, and money do not conform to the love and justice of Jesus, then Jesus becomes smaller in our lives.
  - Please note that money is part of our strengths.
- V. There’s a movie called “Hacksaw Ridge”.
- A. It’s a true story about a Christian Pacifist named Desmond Doss.
- B. As a young boy, he nearly killed his brother out of rage and then, a few years later, came close to killing his father with a gun in a desperate effort to protect his mother.
- From that point on, he promised God to never raise a gun against another person.
- C. At the outbreak of World War II, he enlisted in the Army as a medic with the understanding that he would not have to carry a rifle.
- However, upon arrival for training, his chain of command ordered him to carry and use a rifle.
  - After enduring ridicule, beatings and court-martial, Desmond maintained his integrity and kept his promise to God.
  - He found himself going into combat without a weapon.

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D. At the battle of Okinawa, Desmond’s unit scaled a large ridge known as ‘Hacksaw Ridge’ and attacked the Japanese.

- When his unit was forced to retreat, he stayed behind and searched for the missing wounded and, single handedly, lowered them down the ridge into safety.
- After lowering down a soldier, he’d pray, “Lord, just one more. Let me get one more.” Then he’d run back into enemy occupied territory to retrieve another wounded American soldier.
- He did this all night long and saved 75 men.
- For this action, he became the only Conscientious Objector to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor. <sup>4</sup> .

E. In the life of Desmond Doss, Jesus was big enough to be recognized as Lord because he placed his heart, soul, mind, and strength under the loving authority of Jesus.

VI. So, we ask ourselves: Is Jesus big enough in my life to be recognized as Lord?

Let’s pray.

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