

Massive Problems

If problems were measured in mass

Require comparable solutions

- **1 kg problem**
 - **I forgot where I put my keys**
- **10 kg problem**
- **1,000 kg problem (a metric ton)**
- **1,000,000 metric tons (megaton = 1,000,000,000 kg)**
 - **a giant asteroid hits earth and alters our orbit around sun**

Crisis: when our problems are bigger than our solutions

→ **major guilt or shame**

→ **death**

What problem seems impossibly big today?

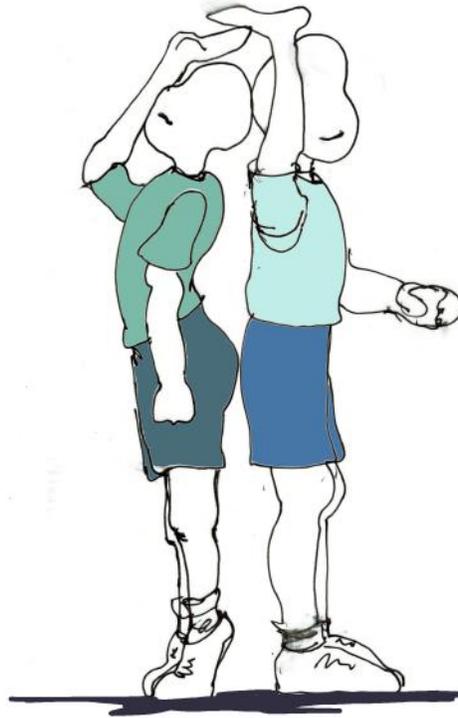
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“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and **his incomparably great power for us who believe**. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.” *Ephesians 1:18-23*

2

Greater by Far

Luke 20:19–40



bib.ly/Lk20.NIV
tiny.cc/cmchandouts

3

Luke 20:19

The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest [Jesus] immediately, because they knew he had spoken **this parable** against them. But they were afraid of the people.

In direct debate between Jesus and the religious leaders...

- **Jesus has clearly and publicly won in their home territory**
- **Then He told a parable that clearly yet cleverly revealed their evil hearts and actions**

They were very upset!

They had to try something more devious to attack Jesus...

4

Luke 20:20-26

Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be sincere. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said, so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor. So the spies questioned him: “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

**They hoped to use Jesus’ integrity against Him
And this question about taxes was impossible to answer!**

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The problem with speaking about paying taxes to Caesar

The people hated Roman taxes

- **economics: it was a lot of money**
- **politics: Rome was an unjust oppressor**
- **theology: Caesar proclaimed as a god (no other gods), with his image on the coins (idolatry)**

And yet...

- **Speaking publicly against Roman taxation was considered rebellion against Rome**
- **The chief priests collaborated with Rome in order to have the privileges they had**

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He saw through their duplicity and said to them, “Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

He said to them, “Then **give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s,** and **to God what is God’s.**”

They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, **they became silent.**

Having the coin is already participating with Rome

→ They were trying to use Rome in get rid of Jesus!!

Jesus’ answer was true, clear, and avoided both traps!

And He called for complete (radical) obedience to God



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Luke 20:27-38

Some of the Sadducees, **who say there is no resurrection,** came to Jesus with a question. **“Teacher,”** they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the **man must marry the widow** and raise up offspring for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. The second and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children. Finally, the woman died too. Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?”

“Reductio ad absurdum” to give a proof by contradiction
Resurrection is essential to Jesus’ ministry!!

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Jesus replied, “The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are **considered worthy** of taking part in **the age to come** and in the resurrection from the dead will **neither marry nor be given in marriage**, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God’s children, since they are children of the resurrection. But in the account of the burning bush, even **Moses showed** that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord ‘the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for **to him all are alive.**”

God gives blessings and life to His people (not everyone)

Forever

Yet the resurrection is not merely a longer life

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Luke 20:39-40

Some of the teachers of the law responded, “Well said, teacher!” And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Recognizing Jesus’ greatness

- **Some of Jesus’ adversaries declared His mastery **out loud****
- **The rest declared His mastery **by silence****

10

I used to think...

...that Jesus is an amazing debater

Actually, I still think that is true

But this passage says something much more important

Now I see...

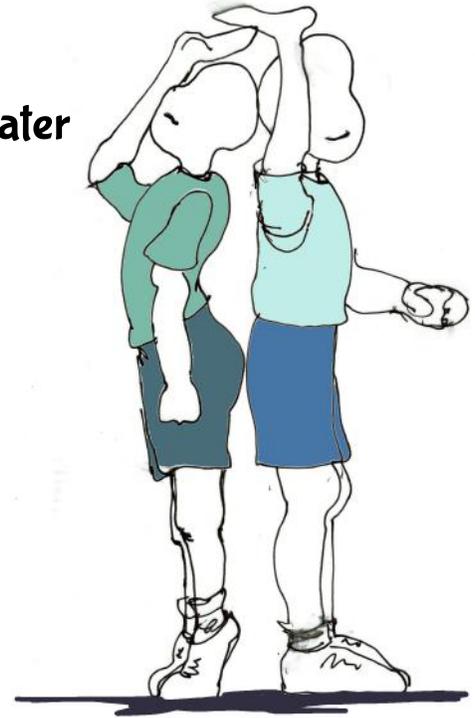
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The Big Idea

**Jesus is the one and only authoritative King
of the far, far greater Kingdom of God**

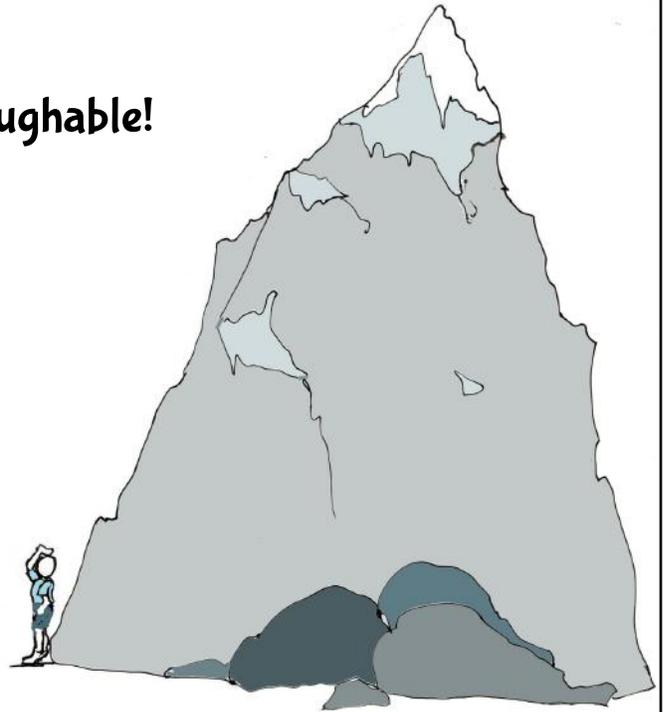
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**Which one is bigger?
Sometimes the greater thing is a little bit greater**



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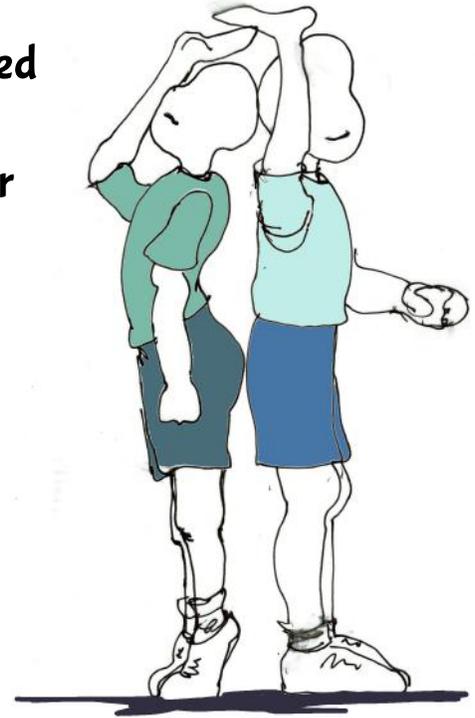
**Which one is bigger?
And sometimes the difference is laughable!**



14

The religious leaders thought that, if they tried really hard, they could...

- ask Jesus a question He couldn't answer
- trick Jesus into saying something to get Him in trouble
- reveal a problem with Jesus' thinking

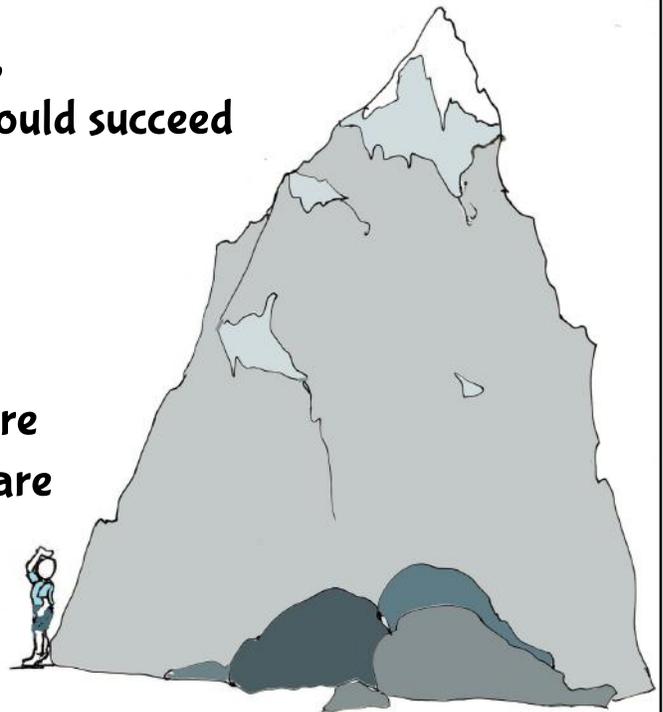


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Yet Jesus was so far beyond them,
there was never a chance they could succeed
The Son of God is not just...

- a little smarter than we are
- a little bit wiser than we are
- a little bit better than we are
- a little more glorious than we are
- a little more powerful than we are

He is **immeasurably** smarter, wiser,
better, more glorious,
more powerful, ...



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Object	Mass
Supermassive black hole	20,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 kg
Stellar black hole	20,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 kg
Sun	2,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 kg
Earth	5,970,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 kg
Great Pyramid at Giza	5,842,269,726 kg
A380 jet at takeoff	587,000 kg
A car	1,900 kg
A person	70 kg

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<p>Supermassive black holes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are very hard to directly observe • yet we know they are real • they are phenomenally massive and powerful • and they profoundly affect entire solar systems <p>Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness. Psalm 145:3</p>	<p>Jesus Christ, the Son of God</p> <p>is very hard to directly observe</p> <p>yet we know He is real</p> <p>He is phenomenally big and powerful</p> <p>and He profoundly affects all existence</p>
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Comparing King Jesus to mere people

Comparing Jesus (the Son of God) with a human being is...

- Not like comparing the mass of 2 people
- But like comparing the mass of a person **70 kg** with a supermassive black hole!

20,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 kg

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The Resurrection

Resurrection is not merely...

- unending life
- the good of earth minus the bad of earth
- a sterile or monotonous existence
- (And people don't become angels)

Resurrection is...

- **a far more glorious reality**
- To be known by the living God is one day to **share His astoundingly glorious life**

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Comparing Jesus' Kingdom to our world's kingdoms

Comparing Earth (or even the universe)
with the Kingdom of God...

- Is not like comparing 2 continents
- But like comparing a great building **5,842,269,726 kg**
with a "super massive black hole"
20,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 kg

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What God has prepared for His people...

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of **this age or of the rulers of this age**, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the **rulers of this age** understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written:

**“What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived”—
the things God has prepared for those who love him—**

these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:6-10a

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The Big Idea

**Jesus is the one and only authoritative King
of the far, far greater Kingdom of God**

**He is not just a little greater than our greatest problems or
fears or regrets or griefs
He is unimaginably greater!**

**The salvation to be revealed is not just a little better
It is unimaginably greater than what we experience now!**

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Application

**Spend more time filling our hearts with the size of our Savior
than with the size of our problems**

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and **his incomparably great power for us who believe**. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.” *Ephesians 1:18-23*

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Application

Spend more time filling our hearts with the size of our Savior than with the size of our problems

- Our challenges are sometimes like 1 kg problems
- and sometimes they are like 1,000,000,000 kg problems
- **“But God...” is greater still!**
- What is impossible for people is possible for God
 - His power to change the world is beyond all we can imagine
 - His wisdom and skill to work good out of disaster is beyond all we can imagine

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Application

Pray and Obey

- Sometimes I do not **pray** because...
 - I think the problem is my size
 - I think my problems is too big even for God
 - I think that God will not do anything for someone like me

“Is anyone among you in trouble? **Let them pray.** Is anyone happy? **Let them sing songs of praise.** Is anyone among you sick? Let them **call the elders of the church to pray** over them” *James 5:13-14a*

- Sometimes I do not **obey** because...
 - I think God’s ways will make no difference, and cost too much

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” *Isaiah 55:9*

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Application

In faith, rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy

“In all this you greatly rejoice, **though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.** These have come so that **the proven genuineness of your faith**—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, **you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy**, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” *1 Peter 1:6-9*

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The Big Idea

Jesus is the one and only authoritative King of the far, far greater Kingdom of God

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and **his incomparably great power for us who believe.**”

Let us spend more time filling our hearts with the size of our Savior than with the size of our problems

How great is our God?

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