



Week of July 8, 2018

Mark 6:1-13

^{NRS} **Mark 6:1** He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.

² On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands!

³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

⁴ Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house."

⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.

⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.

⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts;

⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.

¹⁰ He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place.

¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them."

¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent.

¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. What are your favorite memory verses of the Bible or religious sayings? When do you rely on them?
- B. Can you remember a movie or TV show where religion was depicted as simply being an ordinary part of a person's life (without being clergy or clergy family)?

Bible Study Questions:

1. In verse 3, why do you think they are discussing Jesus' family? Why do you think Joseph isn't mentioned? What do you think "offense" means?
2. In verse 4, why do you think a prophet is without honor in his/her hometown?
3. In verse 5, why do you think Jesus "could do no deed of power" there?
4. In verse 8, consider what it would mean for the disciples to travel with nothing. When have you embarked on a journey (or an endeavor of any kind) without the ability to support yourself?
5. In verse 11, why do you think Jesus instructs the disciples to leave a town where they are not welcomed? Why wouldn't Jesus order them instead to perform miracles to entice people to welcome them?
6. Is your ordinary posture with God more one of resistance or surrender? When have you resisted the work of God in your life? When have you surrendered to God? What would it look like for you to find a middle ground?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about cooperating with what God wants to do in your life.