

Mark 6:1-6

- In His Hometown -

January 10th, 2021

Reading Plan [01.04 - 01.09]

Day 1: Mark 6:1-6 contains some sharp contrasts between the earlier passages in Mark. So, this week we will do a little refresher on Chapters 1-5. Earlier, how had the people responded to Jesus' preaching?

Mark 1 -

Day 2: Earlier in Mark's Gospel, what was the relationship between faith and miracles?

Mark 2 -

Day 3: Earlier in Mark's Gospel, when Jesus called people, how did they respond? When he was "home" in Capernaum, how did the people treat him?

Mark 3 -

Day 4: Once again, how would you describe the people's attitude toward Jesus' teachings?

Mark 4:1-33 -

Day 5: Earlier in Mark's Gospel, how did Jesus demonstrate His lordship? What did He show that He has power over in this passage?

Mark 4:34-5:43 -

- Mark 6:1-6 Text Diagram -

1 He went away from **there**
and came to his **hometown**,
and his disciples **followed** him.

2 And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the **synagogue**,
and many who heard him were **astonished**, saying,
“**Where** did this man get these things?
What is the wisdom given to him?
How are such mighty works 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 And Jesus said to them,
“A prophet is not **without honor**,
except in his hometown
and among his relatives
and in his own household.”

5 And **he could do no mighty work** there,
except that he laid his hands on a few sick people
and healed them.

6 And **he marveled** because of their unbelief.

- Discussion Questions -

Getting to Know Each Other:

1. If you could choose to do anything for one day, what would it be?

Questions for Clarity:

1. Is there any part of the text that needs further explanation?
2. Do you understand the truth statements that summarize the text?
3. Do the truth statements represent the text well?

Verse(s) **1-3:** What causes you to _____ in faith?

The _____ of the day? (v2a)

A _____ of the evidence God has provided? (v2b)

A superficial _____ with Jesus? (v3)

Discussion questions:

1. What are some everyday things that you interact with that you don't really understand?
 - 1.1: Why do we take issue with some mysteries in our lives, and not with others?
2. Are there certain evidences of our faith that you find particularly compelling?
 - 2.1: Does faith require belief beyond evidence?
3. It might be surprising, but proximity to and familiarity with Jesus can sometimes be a stumbling block for a person's faith. Can you think of any example from your or other's lives?
 - 3.1: How does this inform our role as Godly parents?

Verse(s) **4-6:** Turning down the gift of _____ through _____ is _____ even to God.

Discussion questions:

1. It is strange to think of Jesus as stunned. But what does this verse teach us about the lengths that God has gone to to make the gospel both believable and compelling?

- Personal Challenge -

How can we put these truths into action?

Verse(s) 1-3:

There - Wherever the "little girl" lived on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Hometown - Jesus grew up primarily in Nazareth (Lk 2:39-40). Nazareth was about 25 miles Southwest of Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee where Jesus has spent most of his time ministering in the first 5 chapters of Mark. Archeological evidence suggests that Nazareth in Jesus' time was an obscure village with a population of 500 people at the most.

Followed - The accompaniment of His disciples shows that Jesus has returned to His home, not for a family visit, but on Kingdom business. We know from 4:10 & 36 that Jesus has more than 12 committed disciples now. In 1:28 we learned that Jesus' fame had spread throughout all of Galilee. To such a small village, Jesus arriving with his entourage would have been quite the spectacle.

Synagogue - Having returned home as a popular teacher, the ruler of the synagogue invited Jesus to speak (Acts 13:13-16). This was, by now, a common opportunity for Jesus (1:39).

Astonished - Previously, the people who "were astonished at his teaching" (1:22) were impressed by His authority. The word is not necessarily positive. "Shocked" or "stunned" might be a better translation (See *astonished* at 1:22).

Where...What...How? - The hometown crowd questioned what authority Jesus spoke from. They questioned the source of the power for the miracles He performed.

Is Not This...? - The other Nazarenes could not reconcile the teaching that Jesus presented and the miracles reported about Him with the person that had known since He was a small boy.

Carpenter - The word we translate as carpenter literally means one who makes or produces things out of either wood or stone. The Nazarenes knew Him by his earlier occupation rather than as a rabbi. Their point was that to their understanding there was nothing extraordinary about Jesus.

Son of Mary - It is very unusual in the Bible for a son to be described by his relationship to His mother, rather than his father (1:19). Typically the Father's name served as the last name for the person (e.g. James the son of Zebedee) even after the father had died. In sequence with Jesus' occupation as a carpenter and His siblings, we should assume that mention of His parentage communicates the same idea of ordinariness. However, since the Nazarenes did not mention Joseph, it is possible they were insinuating that Jesus' parentage was in question. This could be a logical misunderstanding of the virgin birth.

Brother of...sisters - Their familiarity with Jesus' family lead them to assume that He as well was just an ordinary person.

Offense - In Gr., *skandalizomai* provides the root word for *scandalized* in English. Lit. it means a *stumbling block*. In Mark, he used this word to indicate those things which kept people from coming to faith in Jesus (4:17, 6:3, 9:42, etc.) .

Verse(s) 4-6:

Without Honor - this phrase was a common truism in both the Jewish and Greek world. The idea was that familiarity with the prophet commonly lead to disbelief from his town & family.

He Could Do No Mighty Work - This was not a statement of Jesus' inability. Rather, Mark wanted us to see that Jesus was not free to exercise His powers for people who did not believe (5:34 & Jn 6:35-40). Jesus was not interested in drawing crowds, but commending and growing His followers faith.

He Marveled - In Gr. *thaumazō*. Commonly trans. *amazed*. Means, "to be extraordinarily impressed or disturbed by something." Previously the crowds had been impressed by Jesus (1:22, 5:20), but now Jesus was disturbed at man's hardness of heart & the trivialities that cause us to stumble, rather than coming to Him in faith.