

1. People Tend To Undervalue The Things They Are Most Familiar With. (Mark 6: 1-6)

Mark 6:4-6 Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor."⁵ He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.⁶ And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.

2. When you undervalue faith or don't believe, God's work is limited in your life.

3. Jesus was called for an important and meaningful task.

(*Matt 20:28*) "... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

So are we:

(*Matt 28:19-20*) "... make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you"

4. Jesus empowers all those who are sent. He gives divine instructions. Mark 6:8-11

A. Depend on God alone. That was His simple and succinct message. Don't depend on personal possessions. Extras are not necessary and, in fact, can actually be a distraction. Be content with what is necessary so that focus is hopefully not on things but on Him Who provides those things. Do not allow wealth and prosperity to influence. Material possessions are certainly not wrong but can easily cause our attention to shift from God and His divine work to ourselves and our selfish desires.

It's primarily a matter of what or whom we trust. Don't trust the things the Creator made. Rather, trust the Creator, Who made the things. In fact, Jesus sternly warned in His Sermon on the Mount, ([Matt 6:24](#)) "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

B. Don't let rejection slow you down. Rejection is a very crippling, damaging, and even destructive reality. Satan uses rejection to chip away at our sanctified sense of self-esteem and slow us down or even stop us from doing God's will. Jesus knew full well that many people would reject His disciples' message so He instructed them about how to best deal with that. Likewise, He knows that many people today will reject our message about Him ... especially His substitutionary atonement. After all, He is the sinless Son of God, Who lived the holy life that God demands of us but we can't do; suffered cruel and inhumane punishment followed by crucifixion death on Calvary's cross that we deserve for the sins that we commit; and arose from the dead in triumphant victory over sin, Satan, and death itself to provide forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life to all who cling to Him by Spirit-given faith in Him alone.

Monday, July 6th *Read Mark 6: 1-13*

I. The Rejection of Jesus' Authority: Why Jesus is Rejected, 6:1-6

Wow, Jesus' hometown was harsh with Him. Most of His neighbors could never accept the fact that He was the Messiah. The fact that a person from among their midst could really be the true Messiah, the Son of God, was beyond their comprehension. There were some who were envious and jealous of the prominence and esteem He had achieved. Unacceptance, unbelief, and rumors about Him were widespread among His own people; and their unbelief led them to do some terrible things.

⇒ Some in the city tried to kill Him.

⇒ Some friends and neighbors considered Him mad or insane, so they went after Him to take Him home ([Mark 3:20-21](#); [Luke 4:16-30](#)).

⇒ His family was extremely embarrassed by His claims and the wild rumors surrounding Him ([Mark 3:31-32](#)).

The most severe critics of your life and work are, of course, those who have always known you. It stinks. Here is an outline of the lesson:

1. Jesus was in His hometown, Nazareth (v.1-2).
2. Some questioned His source of authority (v.2-3).
3. Some were offended by Him: They thought of Him only as one of their own (v.3-4).
4. Some blocked God's power (v.5).
5. Some were gripped with unbelief—shockingly so (v.6).

1. Read Mark 6:1-2. Jesus left Capernaum and returned to His hometown, Nazareth. Nazareth was the city where He had grown up as a child and young man. Note that the hometown folks did not flock to Him like they had everywhere else. From all indications, He had no opportunity to preach and teach until the Sabbath. When the Sabbath came, He entered the synagogue and began to teach. His teaching was powerful, extremely impressive—so much so that many were astonished and amazed at the ability and the force of what the *hometown boy* had to say. In this Jesus was perfectly obedient to the Father ([Hebrews 5:8](#)). He lived and moved and had His being in the Father. This, of course, is the key to the believer's power in life.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Ephesians 1:19-20 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

2 Timothy 1:7-8 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.⁸ So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,

Tuesday, July 7th *Read Mark 6: 2-3*

Like the bumper sticker that says "question authority" here some questioned Jesus' source of authority. There were two primary reasons for this.

1. Jesus did not have the right credentials and education. His wisdom could not be denied; neither could the mighty works which He had done elsewhere be denied. The people even recognized that His wisdom and power were a *given* wisdom and power ([Mark 6:2](#)), but they could not understand from where and from whom He had received these.

Their question was a good one; it was the right question to ask. It showed that they were thinking about Him, but they were making a mistake. Why? Because they were unwilling to acknowledge that He had personally come from God ([Luke 4:16-21](#); [John 10:30-38](#)).

2. Jesus was from human and humble beginnings. He was a mere working man, a carpenter. His family had offered him no social or educational advantage. They were just common, ordinary folk, none of whom had ever achieved anything significant; yet, here He was teaching as a great Rabbi. Most likely the basic problem with Jesus' pals was envy and jealousy. They begrudged Jesus the honor and esteem that was being given Him by so many. He had become far more famous than any of them, and most of them had held so much more advantage and promise as children. They were just unwilling to admit that Jesus was really who He claimed to be (cp. [Luke 4:16-24](#)). They resented His claims, resented them so much that they became stiff-necked, giving themselves over to obstinate unbelief.

John 8:19 Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also."

Jeremiah 5:4 I thought, "These are only the poor; they are foolish, for they do not know the way of the Lord, the requirements of their God."

Micah 4:12 But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord; they do not understand his plan, he who gathers them like sheaves to the threshing floor.

Read Mark 6:3-4. Some were offended by Him, offended because they thought of Him only as one of their own.

John 1:10-11 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

Romans 10:3 Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

Ephesians 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Note that Jesus identified three groups who were offended and doing dishonor to Him.

1. "His own country": who attempted to kill Him (see [Luke 4:16-30](#)).
2. "His hometown": friends and neighbors who thought Him insane.
3. "His relatives": family members who were embarrassed by His claims and the neighbors' talk

Thought 1. One thing that God abhors is envy, resenting the gifts given to others. God bestows gifts as He wills to help humankind in its desperate plight. He expects the gifts to be used, and He expects all to encourage one another in the use of those gifts.

1 Corinthians 4:7 For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

Galatians 5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Wednesday, July 8th Read Mark 6:5

Some blocked God's power for the whole community. Their obstinate unbelief, questioning, rumors, and repulsion toward Jesus kept most away. Only a few sick folk were healed. It seems from this that your unbelief affects and influences others. It keeps others away from Christ. What an awful responsibility—a terrible accounting—for one's own family and neighbors and country.

Matthew 18:6 But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Matthew 23:13 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

Romans 14:13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

1 John 2:10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.

Read Mark 6:6. Some were gripped with unbelief—shockingly so. Note that He, "was amazed at their lack of faith." They had His presence, His wisdom, and the testimony of His mighty works. They had His power to help them in all their need, yet they stayed away from His meetings. They would not come to Him. In pride, they refused to trust and believe Him. The situation amazed Jesus. Their unbelief was just incredible, but He had to accept their rejection. He could not force Himself upon them, so He left town and travelled to all the villages surrounding Nazareth. For the believer, unbelief is shocking. It is an amazing thing to think that any one would ever reject the salvation of Christ—the salvation that delivers us from sin, death, and judgment to come, and that Christ enriches and enhances life so much.

Matthew 13:15 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

Job 21:14 Yet they say to God, 'Leave us alone! We have no desire to know your ways.

Thursday, July 9th Read Mark 7-13

Here we have the sending forth of the disciples. You have to be equipped before you go forth, no matter the project or endeavor. To a great degree success depends upon how well equipped you are. This is certainly true of battle or being in the business world. It is also true of God's servants and disciples. They must be equipped by God as they go forth to carry on their ministry for the Lord.

1. [The disciples were equipped \(v.7\).](#)
2. [The disciples were instructed \(v.8-13\).](#)

In verse 6:7 Christ equipped the disciples. He did not send them out unprepared and unequipped.

1. Christ called His disciples "to Him"

Mark 3:14 He appointed twelve--designating them apostles--that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach

This was the very method Christ used to equip His disciples: the method of *attachment* or the method of *discipleship*. Christ simply called these guys to *be with Him*: to walk and associate with Him, to follow and live in His presence. By being "*with Him*" they would see how He walked with God and ministered to people. They would begin to absorb and

assimilate His very character and behavior. They would begin to be like Him, and in becoming like Him, they would begin to follow Him and to serve Him more and more.

2. Christ sent His disciples forth two by two. There are at least two reasons for doing this.

- a. Every word was to be established (confirmed, upheld) in the mouth of two witnesses ([Matthew 18:16](#)).
- b. The two would provide company for each other and be able to more easily face trials together. They could encourage, support, and strengthen each other.

3. Christ gave His disciples great power. Note that power over unclean spirits is all that is mentioned (cp. [Mark 3:15](#)). However, the power "to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease" and "to preach the kingdom of God" was also given (cp. [Matthew 10:1](#); [Luke 9:1-2](#)). Why then does Mark concentrate only on the power over evil spirits? The reason seems to be twofold. Mark is writing to the Gentiles, a people...

- who did not glorify God as God.
- who were not thankful to God.
- who had become vain in their imaginations.
- who had hearts that were foolish and darkened.
- who professed themselves to be wise, but were fools.
- who changed the glory of God into images such as corruptible man, and birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.
- who were unclean through the lusts of their own hearts.
- who dishonored their own bodies between themselves.
- who changed the truth of God into a lie.
- who worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator.
- who were given over to personal and perverse affections.
- whose women changed the natural use into that which is against nature.
- whose men left the natural use of the woman, and burned in their lust one toward another.
- who did not like to retain God in their knowledge.
- who had reprobate minds.
- who did those things that are degrading and immoral (See [Romans 1:21-28](#) for the details!).

Very simply and clearly stated, Mark was writing to a people filled with all kinds of evil, a people who were *subject* to being controlled by all kinds of evil spirits. Gentile society needed to be aware of the unclean spirits among them and their need to be cleansed of such uncleanness and evil.

Friday, July 9th *Read Mark 7-13*

1. Mark focuses upon the central purpose of Christ: to conquer the spirit of evil and to destroy the works of the devil.

John 12:31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

Colossians 2:15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

1 John 3:8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

2. Christ instructed the disciples. He gave them five specific instructions.

1. The disciples were to live in simplicity and humility ([Mark 6:8-9](#)). Christ spelled out exactly what He meant by this.
 - ⇒ They were to take a staff only, that is, a walking staff.
 - ⇒ They were to take no scrip or wallet, no bread, and no money in their purse.
 - ⇒ They were to wear sandals for protection and coolness and comfort of the feet.
 - ⇒ They were not to wear two coats, for this would display extravagant and wasteful living.

2. The disciples were to show stability and settledness ([Mark 6:10](#)). When they entered a town and found a host, they were to remain with that host and not be moving about from place to place.

3. The disciples were to reject any who were not hospitable and receptive ([Mark 6:11](#)).

4. The disciples were to preach repentance ([Mark 6:12](#)). The disciples were not to preach their own message or ideas, not what they thought or believed. They were heralds...

- men who represented the King.
- men who were given the message of the King.
- men who were to proclaim the message of the King.

5. The disciples were to minister to the evil-possessed and the sick ([Mark 6:13](#)). Note they were to minister to both body and soul. They were to liberate the soul from evil spirits, delivering those who were so clearly gripped by the bondage of sin and shame. They were also to minister to those sick in body, those who were suffering and hurting. Don't forget the forgotten ones around you!