

**>>>>>> Lesson 14 <<<<<<<**

- 1) We pickup in Mark 6:1 with Jesus leaving Jairus' house and heading to his hometown.
- 2) This is the second time Jesus returns to His hometown of Nazareth.
- 3) The first had similar yet more drastic results.
- 4) We read in Luke 4 about the event which follows sometime after his baptism and temptation in the wilderness.

**Luke 4:16-33 (NIV)**

- 5) We are not told the exact amount of time that elapses between Jesus' baptism and His first return to Nazareth.
- 6) We do know that He had become well known and was preaching in synagogues throughout the area.
  - a) Jesus mentions in particular Capernaum.
- 7) We are also told nothing scripturally about Jesus from the age of 12 until He is approximately 30 years old, and He is baptized by John.
- 8) However, from the comments made by the towns people in the encounter we just read and what we will read in Mark in a moment, we can definitely get an idea of His life during that 18-year period.
- 9) First, from His encounter with the teachers in the temple courts at age 12, we can assume as he matured:
  - a) He was active in the synagogue (Luke tells us it was his custom).
  - b) He was well versed in scripture so He likely spoke and taught in the synagogue.
  - c) He was probably respected as Jesus the man.
  - d) He was most likely well known as a "smart man" with lots of scriptural knowledge.
  - e) He had followed in His father's footsteps and was a carpenter.
  - f) His family was well known and when we make a comparison between two particular phrases in the two different accounts, we might also make the assumption that they knew of (and still remembered) the scandal associated with His birth.
    - i) In His first return, He was referred to as "Joseph's son."
    - ii) In the second return in Mark, we will see, He is referred to as "Mary's son."
  - g) Some commentators believe this is slur.
    - i) Normally, children were referred to by their father's name but, when they were illegitimate, they were referred to by their mother's name.
- 10) I know this so far has been more about the incident in Luke than the one in Mark (we'll get to that in a moment) but we need to take a deeper dive into why the people of Nazareth reacted this way.

## ***Gospel of Mark – NOTES***

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- 11) What did he say that caused such anger?
- 12) First, they must have known of His reputation and in order for His words to have had this drastic an impact.
- 13) They must have at least partially believed He was a powerful and popular person now.
- 14) If that were not the case, His words would probably not have had such an impact on them.
- 15) Their first reaction to his teaching was that “All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words”.
- 16) This was great until he began to tell them of God’s true plan.
- 17) Jesus’ words filled them with rage because He was saying that God would reach out to Gentiles as well as to Jews.
- 18) They expected that with the Messiah’s coming, the evil Gentiles would be vanquished.
  - a) Gentiles here referring to Romans.
  - b) They were focused on Isaiah’s words “to release the oppressed” rather than the rest of what he said.
- 19) Instead, Jesus, who had just claimed to be the Messiah about whom Isaiah prophesied, illustrated his mission by way of the prophets who had shown kindness to Gentiles.
- 20) Jesus' words implied that His hearers were as unbelieving as the citizens of the northern kingdom of Israel in the days of Elijah and Elisha
  - a) This was a time notorious for great wickedness.
- 21) Again, it looks like some at least, did believe He was the Messiah, if not, they would not have gotten so angry.
- 22) However, they did and so much so that they got up, drove him out of the town . . . so that they might hurl him off the cliff.

### ***Do you think there was an obvious and marked difference in Jesus after His baptism (began His ministry)?***

#### ***What about in the eyes of the townspeople?***

23) Now, looking at this second return to his hometown we read in Mark 6:1

#### ***Mark 6:1-6a (NIV)***

- 24) Here in Mark’s account of Jesus’ second return to Nazareth with His disciples, the reaction is not quite so dramatic.
- 25) Any belief they exhibited on His first return had turned to disbelief.
- 26) They allowed Him to teach but basically we can assume from what is said here they dismissed Him – probably the attitude was He was just another crackpot preacher.

## ***Gospel of Mark – NOTES***

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27) This may have been their way of dealing with the harsh words with which he dealt with them on His first return.

28) Jesus could not do many miracles there in Nazareth – the LABC makes this comment regarding unbelief which caused this:

Jesus did few miracles in his hometown because of the people's unbelief. Unbelief blinds us to the truth and robs us of hope. These people missed the Messiah. How does your faith measure up? If you can't see God's work, perhaps it is because of unbelief. Believe, ask God for a mighty work in your life, and expect him to act.

**Look with the eyes of faith.**

**Is there a potential problem in what is put forth here?**

- Don't challenge God for proof with our requests – the key is belief. God does not need nor will He prove who He is to us.

29) One other thing to note here is Jesus' amazement at their unbelief.

30) As His divine self, nothing would amaze Him.

31) As Jesus the human, He went to Nazareth the second time probably hoping for a different outcome than the first.

32) Unfortunately not so much!

33) Scripture only records Jesus being amazed twice – here at the unbelief of the folks in Nazareth and the other time when He saw the faith of the centurion at Capernaum.

34) John MacArthur says of the relationship of Jesus and the townspeople:

For all of His earthly life, He had been the most unique and amazing person in their midst. They did not know why Jesus was different, but they could not have missed the manifestations of His divine perfection. How could those who claimed to know all about Him stubbornly refuse to accept the only reasonable explanation regarding Him, that He was the Son of God? But such is the blinding power of unbelief (cf. 2 Cor. 4:3–4). Once it became clear that Nazareth had rejected Jesus, He rejected them.

**What are lessons from these two incidents?**

- Rejection is to be expected as we share the truth with those around us.
- Family and non-Christian friends are likely to be the most rejecting of our message.
- "According to your faith will it be done to you" (Matt 9:29 NIV).
  - In the Bible, unbelief is regarded as a mind-set, a stubborn refusal to believe, a moral rebellion, not merely a logical conclusion of evaluating evidence.
  - So the folks in Nazareth had a moral problem, not an intellectual one.
  - They were hardened in their attitudes.

## Gospel of Mark – NOTES

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- We must ask: *Does my lack of faith prevent Jesus from working in my life, my family, and my church?*

### Mark 6:6b-13 (NIV)

- 1) Jesus left Nazareth and continued teaching in the villages of the area.
- 2) From what we read next, this particular mission (for want of a better word) was likely a season of on-the-job-training for the twelve.
- 3) He knew that He was about to send them out and what better way to prepare them than to give them experience.
- 4) After all, He had earlier promised them they He would train them to be “fishers of men”.
- 5) Once the time was right, He called the twelve together and gave them their marching orders:
  - a) No bread
  - b) No bag
  - c) No money
  - d) No extra tunic
- 6) I am as a rule, a person that likes to be prepared. I don’t like being at the mercy of fate so to speak.
- 7) I am also a person that likes to understand the why behind instructions.
- 8) Here, we don’t see much if any of either of these.
- 9) To compound the difficulty of the situation, we can know without doubt, this was not a day trip.
- 10) If we think about the factors involved we can see it was many days if not weeks on this mission.
  - a) Distance between villages.
  - b) Time required to make contact and begin teaching and healing.
  - c) Time to teach all that they should.
  - d) The good news in all the instructions was that Jesus gave them authority over evil spirits.
- 11) Luke also adds they were to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.
- 12) “Proclaim” (kērussō) refers to the authoritative, public pronouncement of vital information by a herald or forerunner.
- 13) The Twelve functioned as Christ’s personal heralds, emulating His example by publicly preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.
  - a) In the culture of that time, when one was the representative of someone else, to the persons they were representing to, it was the same as that person speaking or acting.

## ***Gospel of Mark – NOTES***

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- 14) Looking at this situation and knowing the end of the story, we can know a couple things for sure.
- a) First, no bread, bag, money, or even an extra tunic – these men were to depend on God and God alone to provide their sustenance during this mission
  - b) Second, though they were depending on God for that sustenance, it would come thru the generosity of the people they met and taught.
  - c) Jesus also made it clear that they were to be honoring of those who did befriend them.
  - d) As one commentator put it: “they were not to shop around for better accommodations.”
- 15) In all this, there is a subtle “oh by the way” comment regarding failure in some towns:
- 11 And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them.”
- 16) There are the obvious comments here regarding this being a way of showing their discontent with the outcome there.
- 17) This was an action that Jews customarily took when leaving a Gentile city.
- 18) Beyond that, there is the other unspoken issue here – if they were not accepted and they were to leave the town, then they possibly did not get any food or lodging during their stay there.
- 19) Really indicates a serious situation depending on the distance to the next village AND once they arrived there, whether they would be accepted or not.
- 20) As I contemplated what Jesus asked of his disciples it was a challenge:

***In our faith walk today, are we ever asked to do things that are as difficult as what Jesus asked his disciples?***