

THE GOSPEL OF
MARK®
servant **KING**

CHAPTER 6, PART 1

Verses 1-29

RETURNING TO NAZARETH

Jesus has been in the City of Capernaum on the northern part of the Sea of Galilee. He has brought Jairus's daughter back to life. Also, He restored an anonymous woman who had suffered for many years with an issue of blood. Now Jesus is leaving Capernaum with His disciples, and He is returning to His hometown of Nazareth. It is probably a 30- to 35-mile journey from Capernaum to Nazareth. When Jesus comes home, he is met with unbelief and dishonor.

MEMORY VERSE

A prophet is not without honor except in His own country, among His own relatives, and in His own house. Mark 6:4

Read Mark 6:1-29 in a prayerful manner. Share a verse that spoke to you personally.

JESUS REJECTED

1. Where did Jesus travel to and who accompanied Him (v.1)?

DIG DEEPER

This was Jesus's second visit to Nazareth. Read Luke 4:16-30. In Jesus's first visit to Nazareth, He went to the synagogue as usual on the Sabbath and stood up to read from the Scriptures.

- 1) What passage of Isaiah did Jesus read from (Luke 4:17-19)?

- 2) When Jesus finished reading, what did He boldly declare (Luke 4:21)?

 - 3) What was the initial response of the people hearing His words (Luke 4:20;22)?

 - 4) Jesus continued to teach from the prophets of Elijah and Elisha and referred to the widow of Zarephath. What was the final response of those in Nazareth who heard Jesus's words (Luke 4:28-30)?

 2. On this second visit to His hometown Nazareth, where did Jesus go and what did He do on the Sabbath? Once again, what was the response of the people this time? What questions did they ask one another (v.2)?

 3. Note the difference in the question in Mark 6:3 and Luke 4:22. In that day, it would have been an insult to be called the "Son of Mary" instead of calling Him a son of His father. Possibly, Joseph had died, so what rumors did the people entertain about Jesus's birth that would indicate an insult (Luke 1:35-38)? How would this give them an excuse for their unbelief (John 8:41)?
- DID YOU KNOW?**

Mark 6:3 is the only place in the New Testament where Jesus is called a carpenter. The parallel verse in Matthew 13:55 reads, "Is this not the ***carpenter's son?***" [emphasis added]
4. The people of Nazareth were "offended" at Jesus, which literally means they stumbled over Him. Jesus was certainly "a stone of stumbling" to them because of their unbelief. (See Isaiah 8:14; Romans 9:32-33; 1 Peter 2:8)

 5. "Familiarity breeds contempt" is a familiar adage. In our world people today think they know Jesus but in reality they really do not know Jesus of the Bible. How do you see people stumble over Jesus in our world today? How are they "offended" by Him?

6. Jesus said there were three settings where a prophet is dishonored; what are they (v.4)?

7. What reason does Matthew 13:58 give us for why Jesus could do no mighty work in Nazareth? What did their unbelief deprive them of according to Isaiah 6: 10?

8. Why would Jesus marvel at the unbelief of the people in His hometown (v.6)? (Also see John 5:36; Isaiah 61:1-2.) When Jesus looks at your faith, what does He marvel at?

“Twice in the gospels record you find Jesus marveling. As this passage reveals, He marveled at the unbelief of the Jews and He marvels at the great faith of a Roman centurion, a Gentile” (Luke 7:9).

Warren Wiersbe

SENDING OUT THE TWELVE

Jesus moved on teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. He was filled with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered like sheep without a shepherd. He said to His disciples “The harvest is truly plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest,” (Matthew 9:35-38).

9. How did Jesus send out the twelve [apostles] (v.7)?

DID YOU KNOW?

The word “send” in Mark 6:7 is *apostello* in the Greek and gives us our English word apostle. It means “to send with a special commission to represent another and to accomplish his work.” Jesus gave these twelve men both the apostolic authority and the divine ability to do the job He sent them to do. They were not “on their own”; they represented Him in all they said and did.

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10. Read the following Scriptures; how do they support this sending?

a. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

b. Deuteronomy 17:6, 19:15, 2 Corinthians 13:1

11. What did Jesus give them (v.7b)? (Also see Matt. 10:1.)

12. The disciples were to go out in simplicity; what commands did Jesus give them for the journey (vv.8-10)? What are we to put on in our daily walk (Ephesians 6:13-17)?

13. What were the disciples given permission to declare on those who would not receive and believe their message? What was the warning to those who rejected their message (v.11)?

DID YOU KNOW?

It was customary for the Jews to shake the dust off their feet whenever they left Gentile territory, but for Jews to do this to their fellow Jews would be something new.

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14. When they went out, what was the message? How else did they minister to the people (vv.12-13)?

“The disciples went out anointing with oil. This is the first reference to it and the only reference within the gospel. The only other reference to anointing with oil is in James where it says, ‘If there’s any sick among you, let him call for the elders of the church.’” *Pastor Chuck Smith*

DIG DEEPER

Jesus sent these men on a journey. This was a teaching time for them for the future when Jesus would not be with them. They were to focus on the gospel message of repentance. Not on the comforts of daily life. They were to learn to be content with what they had at any given moment, and to leave the results in God's hands. Read Matthew 10:5-42 for more detailed instructions and warnings from Jesus to these twelve as they were sent out. What stood out to you?

15. What great commission did Jesus give us in Matthew 28:19-20? Who is responsible for the results? How does knowing this help us to be obedient to this command

JOHN THE BAPTIST BEHEADED

“The reports of Jesus ministry reached the palace of Herod Antipas. Mark called him “king” which is what Herod wanted to be called, but in reality, godless Herod was only a tetrarch, the ruler of a fourth part of the nation. When Herod the Great died, the Romans divided his territory among his three sons, and Antipas was made tetrarch of Perea and Galilee.” *Warren Wiersbe*

16. Herod had heard of Jesus along with many others, for His name had become very well known, and they all wondered who He really was. Refusing to accept Jesus's claim to be the Son of God, many made up their own speculations for His power and authority. Who did Herod believe Jesus was? What caused him to come to that conclusion? Who were the other people claiming Jesus to be (vv.14-16)?
17. Evidently, Herod's conscience was bothering him. How had he treated John the Baptist? For what reason? What were Herodias's (Herod's wife) feelings about and intentions for John (vv.17-19)?

18. What had stopped Herodias from temporarily succeeding in her evil plot against John? Do you think that Herodias kept Herod from turning to God (v.20)?

19. Herodias's opportune time had come. Describe Herod's birthday party. Who was there? What was the entertainment (vv.21-22)? Herod's sensual appetite was ignited. What did he haphazardly promise to Herodias's daughter (vv.22-23)?

20. After consulting with her mother, what did this young girl quickly reply to the king's offer (vv.24-25)? Herod had arrested John the Baptist under pressure from his wife and advisors. Even though Herod feared and respected John's integrity, what did he consent to do (vv.26-28)?

DID YOU KNOW?

As a ruler under Roman authority, Herod had no kingdom to give. This offer was his way of saying he would give her anything she wanted. When Herodias asked for John's head, Herod would have been embarrassed in front of his guests if he had denied her request. Words are powerful, they can lead to great sin, we should use them with great care.

PERSONAL

John the Baptist paid the ultimate price by pointing out sin. Truth is not always received by those who need to hear it. How bold are you to step out in uncomfortable situations to confront sin? When has speaking truth cost you? Share a time when you had a conflict between doing what was right and the thing you feared most.

21. What did the disciples do after they heard what happened to John the Baptist? Herod had an innocent godly man put to death to please his evil wife and to save face with his peers to keep a vow made in front of a crowd. Doing wrong to save face reveals a person's true nature.

DWELL ON THIS

Unbelief is a theme of this passage. Jesus faced rejection in His hometown from friends and family. He said, “a prophet is without honor except in His own country, among His relatives and in His own house” (v.4). The twelve disciples were sent out to expect some unbelief and rejection along their journey but to “shake the dust under their feet as a testimony against them” (v.11). John the Baptist faced rejection to the death. Not everyone will accept the message of Jesus. Yet we are instructed to “Preach the word in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching” (2 Timothy 4:2).

NOTES
