

MARK Lesson 06

Mark Chapter 6

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I. The Rejection at Nazareth

Mark 6:1 And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him.

Mark 6:2 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

Mark 6:3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

This was his own country, Nazareth.

Luke 4:16, And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

Though born in Bethlehem and now residing in Capernaum, He was always Jesus of Nazareth. He taught in the synagogue and the people were astonished at his doctrine and asked him a three part question.

- a. They question the source of these things.
- b. They question the source of His wisdom.
- c. They question how His hands could do such works.

They question where he acquired this great wisdom and the ability to perform the miracles that were done by his hands. Jesus was not formally trained in a religious institution like the rabbis. He had not been to what we would call a seminary to learn about God, or to a rabbinical school. Since he had no formal training, the people of Nazareth perceived him as a carpenter.

They saw Christ only as the carpenter and His human relationships. These brothers and sisters were His half-brothers and half-sisters which were born to Joseph and Mary. This destroys Catholic doctrine. It says they were offended at Him. "Offended" is from the Greek "SCANDALIZO" which is similar to our scandalized. They both have to do with a snare, trap, or stumbling block. They

snared themselves. These poor souls thought they knew Jesus, but they knew Him not at all.

To them He was a stone of stumbling.

1 Pet. 2:7-8, Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Jesus returns to the area where he grew up. In verse 3, we see he has four brothers listed and his sisters are also mentioned. The question and say “Is not this the carpenter Joseph’s son, the one who was married to Mary. Most likely, since Joseph was mentioned like this, he had probably already died by this time. It is certain that when Jesus was about to die, he made provision for his mother to be cared for by John.

John 19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

John 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

John 19:27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

Mark 6:4 But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house

Mark 6:5 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

Mark 6:6 And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

Since the people of Nazareth showed little respect to the Lord, he explains that a prophet is not without honour except for his own country. Sometimes those close to us may not have the proper respect for our work involved with God. That does not mean that some of your kinfolds will not respect you, it is just that sometimes not all will. One time when I was starting the bible studies on the Internet in 1997, I mentioned it to a friend at work. He smiled and said he didn’t listen or read anything from anyone who did not have professional seminary experience. I told him that I was sad about that, because that would exclude all the teachings of the greatest teacher on the face of the earth, Jesus Christ. He smiled and didn’t say another thing about that. Of course Jesus was God and was involved in the entire writing of the Word of God, so he had total knowledge. We today must study to gain wisdom about God’s Word. I’d like to say that those who have attended professional religious training are always

better teachers, but we have many who come out with a false sense of God and don't even know what the true Bible is. So who trains us has a lot to do with whether we are truly gaining wisdom or just man's philosophy. Be sure of this, if the things you are taught conflict with the Bible, they are not accurate teachings.

Prov 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Prov 9:11 For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

Verse 5 says that due to their unbelief, Jesus did not do many mighty works there in Nazareth. Jesus marvelled at their unbelief. I'm sure he does that at times with us still today.

It has been said, "familiarity often breeds contempt," but this only with contemptible things and contemptible persons. Because of their unbelief, Jesus' work there was limited. He could do no mighty works there because of their unbelief. This was not because of any defect in His power, but because their unbelief caused Him to purpose to do no great works there. Unbelief hinders the work of God. Remember the purpose of miracles.

John 20:30-31, And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Out of compassion, He did heal a few sick folk. This is one of the two times Jesus marvelled. He marvelled at the faith of the Centurion. Matt. 8:10-12

Mat 8:10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

And here in verse 6, He marvelled at the unbelief of those of Nazareth.

II. The Mission of the Twelve Disciples

Mark 6:7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

Mark 6:8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

Mark 6:9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.

Christ gave exact instructions to the twelve disciples. They were to go forth two by two and were to take nothing for the trip. No provisions, no scrip, no bread,

no money... just a staff and sandals with only one coat. Does this sound like the way missionaries go out today? Some do, but many spend months and sometimes years gaining support that they might have a relatively good income before they get on the field. There is nothing wrong with being prepared, but if God tells us to go to specific field, it would be far better to go and be short on funds than to be out of God's will and still be out raising funds. I truly believe that God will provide if we look to him by faith. Sometimes, you might have to work to make a living like Paul did making tents, but you still go and do the work God has for you to do. These were given special powers to cast out unclean spirits, and they were to go looking to God for their daily provision and were to accept whatever those gave them that they came in contact with.

These twelve made up the first church.

1 Cor. 12:28, And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

He called them and made them the charter members of His Church. They were sent forth two by two. We discussed last week how that two is the number of witness to establish fact.

Deut. 17:6, At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.

They were given power over unclean spirits. God's commandments always includes His enablements.

II Cor. 3:5, Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.

They were to take only a staff. The scrip was a bag in which they carried provisions. He tells them to wear sandals but not two coats. The reason for these instructions was due to the fact they were to go forth in haste and in faith.

Matthew Henry said this about the command to the disciples:

Here is, I. The commission given to the twelve apostles, to preach and work miracles; it is the same which we had more largely, Mt. 10. Mark doth not name them here, as Matthew doth, because he had named them before, when they were first called into fellowship with him, ch. 3:16–19. Hitherto they had been conversant with Christ, and had set at his feet, had heard his doctrine, and seen his miracles; and now he determines to make some use of them; they had *received*, that they might *give*, had *learned*, that they might *teach*; and therefore now he *began to send them forth*. They must not always be studying in the academy, to get knowledge, but they must preach in the country, to do good with

the knowledge they have got. Though they were not as yet so well accomplished as they were to be, yet, according to their present ability and capacity, they must be set to work, and make further improvements afterward. Now observe here,

1. That Christ sent them forth *by two and two*; this Mark takes notice of. They went two and two to a place, that out of the mouth of two witnesses every word might be established; and that they might be company for one another when they were among strangers, and might strengthen the hands, and encourage the hearts, one of another; might help one another if any thing should be amiss, and keep one another in countenance. Every common soldier has his comrade; and it is an approved maxim, *Two are better than one*. Christ would thus teach his ministers to associate, and both lend and borrow help.

2. That he gave them power over unclean spirits. He commissioned them to attack the devil's kingdom, and empowered them, as a specimen of their breaking his interest in the souls of men by their doctrine, to cast him out of the bodies of those that were possessed. Dr. Lightfoot suggests, that they cured diseases, and cast out devils, by the Spirit, but preached that only which they had learned from the mouth of Christ.

Mark 6:10 And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.

Mark 6:11 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Mark 6:12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

Mark 6:13 And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

He tells them that whatever place they entered, they were to abide there and depend on the hospitality of the people. They were to treat them respectfully, and if they were not received, then they were to shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. God warned of the serious of judgment they would face if this was the case. So they went forth and preached the gospel and told people to repent and turn to God to be saved. And they cast out devils, and healed many that were sick. Remember that the apostles had special powers that you and I no longer have today. Can God still heal the sick man or woman? Of course he can. But it is not accomplished by us laying hands on people or anointing them with oil. It is by making our petitions known by prayer, and by faith, God will them. We are just messengers and prayer warriors with people today, not the carriers of divine healing.

They were to stay in the one house in each place. This of course was how their needs were supplied.

Also he told them what they were to do where they were not received.

- a. They were to shake the dust off of their feet.
- b. God's judgment would be great upon such a city.

The doctrine they preached repentance which is a needed doctrine in every age.

III. The Death of John the Baptist

Mark 6:14 And king Herod heard of him; (for his name was spread abroad:) and he said, That John the Baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do show forth themselves in him.

Mark 6:15 Others said, That it is Elias. And others said, That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets.

This was Herod Antipas son of Herod the Great who ruled Galilee and Perea from 4 B.C. to A.D. 39. His incestuous marriage to his niece Herodias, former wife of his half-brother Philip, resulted in the murder of John the Baptist.

Herod thought that Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead while some others had other opinions.

The great miracles that Jesus performed were not long in reaching the ears of Herod. When we have done wrong, we tend to think the worse is about to come upon us. Herod thinks that John the Baptist has risen from the grave due to the great and mighty works that he did. The bible teaches that the wicked are constantly in fear.

Prov 28:1 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

When a person does wrong, they are afraid they will be caught, and they are always looking around to see if someone is coming upon them. That is a very sad way to live. But if we are living for the Lord, we are not fearful. What can man do to us? Perhaps put us to death... Paul said to be absent from the body is to be home with the Spirit. Nothing can defeat us if we live honestly and for the Lord. I forget the man who founded the Texas Rangers, but he stated that "If you are in the right, and keep coming, no one can stop you." If that is true for worldly law enforcement, how much more true is it for the Christian that is in the perfect Will of the Lord in doing God's Work. We should not fear man, but fear God. And looking to God for strength, we can accomplish great things. Verse 15 says that the people knew something was great about Jesus. He had to be someone great like Elias or one of the other prophets. He was great, and greater than any other who ever walked on this earth.

Mark 6:16 But when Herod heard thereof, he said, It is John, whom I beheaded: he is risen from the dead.

Mark 6:17 For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her.

Mark 6:18 For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.

Mark 6:19 Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not:

Mark 6:20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

John had been put to death because of Herodias. Herodias was actually Philip's wife, the brother of Herod. Herod had married this woman and John spoke out against it and told him that it was not right for a man to take his brother's wife. This made Herodias very upset, and she determined to kill John the Baptist. However, Herod feared John because he was a just and holy man. Sometimes even evil people respect those that love the Lord and serve God.

Verse 16 says Herod was convinced it was John, risen from the dead. John had nothing but the truth, but that truth continued to work on the conscience of Herod. John the Baptist was imprisoned for Herodias' sake. This was caused by John's bold preaching. How different from the compromise preaching today on divorce and remarriage. Some could care less what God thinks about marriage or divorce. Verse 19 points out how Herodias' desired to kill him.

Herod's had a high opinion of John the Baptist. He feared him but did not obey him because he did not fear God.

We ought to highly esteem this man John the Baptist because:

- a. His ministry was the beginning of the gospel. Mark 1:1-4
- b. He was a man sent from God.

John 1:6, There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

- c. Jesus said that no greater man was ever born of woman.

Matt. 11:11, Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

He was the first Baptist and the first baptizer. He was the one who baptized Christ and all the apostles, the material from which Christ established His church.

Acts 1:21-22, Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

John was the forerunner of Christ and was the end of an era and the beginning of a new era.

Luke 16:16, The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

Mark 6:21 And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee;

Mark 6:22 And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.

Mark 6:23 And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom.

We have record of Herod's birthday supper. Herod's stepdaughter arouses his carnal desires through the dance. The Jews would have forbidden a woman to dance before a group of men. Because of being so pleased, he makes an amorous and foolish promise. Lusting in this manner is prohibited by God.

Matt. 5:28, But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Prov. 6:25, Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

Mark 6:24 And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist.

Mark 6:25 And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.

Mark 6:26 And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.

Mark 6:27 And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison,

Mark 6:28 And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother.

Mark 6:29 And when his disciples heard of it, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb.

The opportunity came on Herod's birthday. At the party, Herodias' daughter danced and it greatly impressed Herod. He makes a promise to give her whatever she desired, up to half of his kingdom. The daughter does not know what to ask for, so she asks her mother. She knew immediately what to ask for... she wanted John the Baptist's head on a charger. So the daughter asks for it, and the king really regretted what he had promised to her. But he went ahead and had the executioner kill John, and they brought his head in on a charger.

Verse 24 records Herodias' wicked proposal. Salome's request was to have John's head on a charger. The charger was a platter used to serve food.

The king got himself into a foul predicament. As that song says, sin will take you farther than you want to go. Because of his promise, he fulfills the wish and John the Baptist is beheaded.

John's disciples come and take the body and bury him. In this incident we see the cost of being faithful to God and the little reward that some of God's choice servants receive in this world. Nevertheless John was not the loser!

FOOTNOTE: In A.D. 39, Herod Agrippa (Acts 12:1), nephew of Herod Antipas, denounced his uncle to the Roman emperor and Antipas was deposed and sent into exile. (Mark 8:36)

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What was the name of Jesus' own country?

Nazareth

2. What was the reaction to His teaching here?

They seemed to not believe him. They question where he acquired this great wisdom and the ability to perform the miracles that were done by his hands. Jesus was not formally trained in a religious institution like the rabbis.

3. Repeat the reply of Jesus.

Mark 6:4 But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house

4. Who are these who are called his brothers and sisters?

These brothers and sisters were His half-brothers and half-sisters which were born to Joseph and Mary.

5. Explain the meaning of offended as used here.

It says they were offended at Him. "Offended" is from the Greek "SCANDALIZO" which is similar to our scandalized. They both have to do with a snare, trap, or stumbling block. They snared themselves.

6. How did Jesus send forth His church?

Two by two

7. What were they to take and what were they not to take?

Mark 6:8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

Mark 6:9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.

8. Where were they to stay, and what were they to do where they were not received?

Mark 6:10 And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.

Mark 6:11 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

9. What doctrine did they preach?

Repentance

10. Who was this Herod and give the background of his marriage?

This was Herod Antipas son of Herod the Great who ruled Galilee and Perea from 4 B.C. to A.D. 39. His incestuous marriage to his niece Herodias, former wife of his half-brother Philip.

11. Who did Herod think that Jesus was?

John the Baptist risen from the dead.

12. Relate how John the Baptist lost his head.

He preached against sin, and Herod and Herodias were offended and it cost him his life.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.