

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 12TH–13TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

UNBELIEF (MARK 6:1–6) RETURNING TO HIS HOMETOWN

What we know of Jesus' life before His public ministry indicates He spent most of His time in Nazareth. When He left that town, He was a blue-collar craftsman. When He returned, He was a rabbi with quite a following.

- Because He was a rabbi, the synagogue invited Him to speak, and they were amazed.

MOST TOOK GREAT OFFENSE TO JESUS

They were not offended by what He said or did but who He was. They mocked Him because He was just the neighborhood kid who worked as a carpenter most of His life.

- Their skepticism is understandable, but **their hearts had become too hard (Ch. 4) to see the evidence in front of them.**

MANY HAVE ALREADY MADE UP THEIR MINDS

Many have become so prideful they do not want to be confused by evidence or facts.

- We must be careful to **never drift into a mindset that believes we determine truth or morality based on our personal preferences.** Hubris, especially this kind, prohibits spiritual growth.

NOT ALWAYS THE HOMETOWN HERO (V. 4)

Jesus quotes an old Hebrew proverb to show that sometimes the hardest people to please are those who have known us the longest.

- This goes back to 3:33–35 and the family of God. **It is more important to aim to please Jesus, who perfectly loves us, than those who may not even like us.**

LIMITING JESUS?

Because the majority of people in Nazareth lacked faith in Jesus, “He was not able to do a miracle there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.”

- Jesus healed and forgave out of compassion, not performance. **Jesus knew their hearts and acted accordingly.**

HEALING AND GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

To believe faith determines healing is bad theology, but **the absence of faith does hinder the receptivity to Jesus and what He wants to do in our lives.**

- We have to **rest in God's sovereignty**, and **know He is capable** and that **He knows and wants what is best for us.**

“HE WAS AMAZED AT THEIR UNBELIEF”

There are two times in the Bible that Jesus was “amazed”—here at Nazareth's unbelief and also with a centurion's belief (Luke 7:9).

- Jesus' evidence, word, and actions are clear and simple, but **when pride and selfishness take root, the road we walk is amazingly chaotic and destructive.**

WORKING (MARK 6:7–13) THE MAIN POINT OF THEIR CALLING

Jesus called the 12 for the purpose of teaching, and now the time has come for them to do so.

- Though there are many earthly benefits of following Jesus, **the main point is the truth of Jesus' identity and the power of the good news of His Kingdom.**

HE SENT THEM OUT IN PAIRS

Jesus sent them with “authority over unclean spirits” and in pairs. One reason for this was the law demanded two witnesses to validate a testimony.

- **We can only effectively impact the world under the authority of Jesus.** We are to do this alongside other Christians.

LEARNING TO DEPEND ON JESUS

The 12 were told to not take anything for their journey, but to depend on His provision through people who would welcome them in because they had a hunger for truth.

- This is not an excuse to be irresponsible, but a lesson in trusting that **everything we need ultimately comes from God.**

“SHAKE THE DUST OFF YOUR FEET”

Truth does not change based on trend or feelings. Unfortunately, many have no desire to hear the truth because it encroaches on how they want to live.

- **We're not responsible for the reception of the truth, just the presentation (speaking and demonstrating) of it.**
- Jews considered Gentiles unclean. When a Jew returned from a Gentile area, they would remove all the dust from their clothes.
- Similarly, Jesus is saying that **any trace of opposition to the gospel must be removed from us as we love and engage others and navigate this life.**

“SO THEY WENT OUT AND PREACHED”

The first thing the 12 would preach is repentance from sin. This is more than asking forgiveness; this is choosing to live differently.

- First and foremost, **Jesus wants to save us from sin and destruction. The gospel is basically a call to turn to God and live in His Kingdom.**

SECONDARY BLESSINGS

Salvation and holiness is the primary message of the gospel. The **mental and physical** effects of following Jesus are very important secondary messages of Christianity.

- If Christ is focused on spirit, body, and mind, the church should also focus on blessing others in all three ways.

PRESSURE AND MURDER (MARK 6:14–29) “JESUS' NAME HAD BECOME WELL KNOWN”

Vs. 14–29 give a flashback to a tragic event that took place while Jesus' ministry was ramping up. John had been beheaded, and rumors circulated about Jesus' relation to him.

- Because John was a forerunner, some thought John had returned as Jesus. Others realized Malachi 4:5 had come to fruition.

A GUILTY CONSCIENCE

Herod was a paranoid king and believed Jesus was John raised from the dead to avenge his death.

- **Confusion over the identity of Christ leads to sin and weak integrity. Sin and lack of integrity contribute to paranoia, suspicion, anxiety, and ultimately chaos.**

JOHN IMPRISONED

John had been arrested because he publicly opposed Herod's marriage to his brother's wife while his brother was still alive. Herod actually respected John and thought he was a good man, but his new wife hated John.

- Herod's real problem was that **though he recognized the truth, he did not repent. “AN OPPORTUNE TIME”**

When Herod's birthday came, Herodias saw an opportunity to take revenge on John. She had her daughter seductively dance in front of Herod and his officials, and in his lust and drunkenness, he offered her virtually anything.

- At this, she went to her mom and was told to ask for John's head on a platter.

SO, MANY LESSONS HERE

1) Sin often leads to irrational hate, especially towards righteous things. **2)** Unaddressed sin and hate lead us to do crazy, destructive, and evil things (prostitute own daughter). **3)** When we place ourselves in situations where our sobriety is compromised (lust, intoxication), we do stupid things!

HEROD AND JESUS CONTRASTED

Herod was “deeply distressed” and could have said no to Salome's request, but because everyone was looking at him, he “immediately sent for an executioner.”

- Jesus never buckled to the crowd. **If we do not live in Jesus, we will lack integrity and fold when societal pressure intensifies.**

“BROUGHT HIS HEAD ON A PLATTER”

The execution was carried out. When John's disciples heard, they retrieved his body and gave him an honorable burial. Most of his followers then began to follow Jesus.

- John's ministry was short-lived and he was probably in his mid-30s when he died, but his legacy is profound (Matthew 11:11).

PRIDE AND UNBELIEF

- In our pride, we are often offended by the true identity of Jesus because **acknowledging who He is means we must depend on His help and submit to His ways.**
- Failure to live in the truth of who Jesus is limits fulfillment in this life and prohibits salvation, change, and restoration.

SACRIFICE FOR AN ETERNAL KINGDOM

- Salvation is free, but **Christianity demands sacrifice.** We are called to **live according to the Word, love others, share truth**, and **possibly forfeit comforts and freedoms.**
- If we are willing to sacrifice, we are **saved, restored**, and given **authority, provision**, and **wisdom** to sustain us.

IF WE FAIL TO SUBMIT TO JESUS...

- **Sin will continue to take root, and it will destroy us.** We will make poor choices, drown in hate, live in fear, and hurt others in the process.
- We will crumble to the pressures of life or live in **dangerous oblivion** to the eternal consequences of rejecting the truth.

INTEGRITY AND LEGACY

- **True salvation leads to sanctification.** This leads to a life of **integrity** and **fortitude**, regardless of how difficult life may be.
- **A life dedicated to Jesus also leaves an impact on those around us.** This was always Jesus' intention with us—to leave a positive, lasting footprint.