

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 13TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

REJECTED (MARK 6:1-6) FROM CAPERNAUM TO NAZARETH

Jesus returned with His disciples to His hometown, which is about 20 miles away—not that far, but worlds apart.

- He went from a place where people crowded around Him just to touch His robe to a place where people had known Him since He wore diapers.

THEY WERE ASTONISHED

Jesus was invited to teach as a visiting rabbi in the synagogue. As He began to speak, they were amazed, as people often were when they heard Him.

- Their amazement was centered on His ability to speak and perform miracles. **How could the Jesus they knew possess such extraordinary powers?**

THE SON OF MARY

As soon as they realized they could not reconcile the Jesus they knew to the one they saw speaking with such authority, they began to make derogatory remarks about Him.

- Not only did they point out His low status as an everyday blue-collar worker, but they reminded Him He was also born out of wedlock.
- **They were offended that others could be so impressed as to follow Him.**

WITHOUT HONOR

Jesus positioned Himself as a prophet and revealed the trials faced by those who came before Him.

- A prophet is not merely someone who predicts the future but **a voice who boldly proclaims the message of God.**
- While we may not bear the title of prophet, **we will experience rejection when we declare the Word of God.**

UNBELIEF

The phrase, “He was not able to do a miracle,” reflects more about the state of their hearts than it does about Jesus’ capacity to perform miracles.

- **God is unable to work in our lives or the lives of others if we do not turn to Him for healing. How often does Jesus marvel at our lack of belief?**

SENT OUT (MARK 6:7-13)

SENT THEM OUT

Jesus had been preparing His disciples for this moment. They were now empowered to represent Christ, allowing Him to reach more people than He could alone.

- **God is calling each of us to go out and share His message. We do not need to have everything figured out; we only need to trust in the One who does.**

IN PAIRS

Although they could cover more area if they went out one by one, **Jesus knew the value of community.**

- Having pairs of people provided protection. The law required two witnesses to verify any matter.
- **Working together also offered strength, encouragement, comfort, discernment, and protection against idleness.**

TAKE NOTHING

This command to take only the bare minimum for their journey emphasizes the urgency required and the importance of relying on God’s provision rather than their own.

- There is a sense of urgency to the gospel, reminding us to **place our trust in God’s power to provide rather than in our own capabilities.**

SHAKE OFF THE DUST

Following the example Jesus set for them, they were prepared to face rejection. By sharing the gospel faithfully, they would empower the listeners to take responsibility for their own responses.

- **We have the privilege of sharing the gospel, but we cannot force anyone to accept it.**
- **As we are hearing the gospel, we need to reflect on what we do with it.**

REPENTANCE

They were called to preach repentance, not highlight how wonderful Jesus is, although that is certainly true.

- This call to repentance is the vital first step toward true healing.
- **Jesus can only heal and transform our lives when we recognize the need for that healing and transformation. We don’t need another buddy; we need a savior.**

EXPECTATIONS (MARK 6:14-29)

JOHN THE BAPTIST?

There was much speculation about who Jesus was, **as many refused to acknowledge Him as the Son of God.**

- Among all the various explanations, Herod believed Jesus was John the Baptist—not because John had done any miracles but because of his troubled conscience.
- Today, people still have their own interpretations of who Jesus is. **How do you see Him?**

FLASHBACK

The following verses explain why John the Baptist was beheaded and why Herod was so fearful that he believed John had come back to life.

- Mark artfully arranged this section of Scripture as a literary sandwich, highlighting the disciples’ successes while also acknowledging the challenging realities of rejection and persecution in ministry.

AN UNLAWFUL MARRIAGE

Herodias was initially married to Philip, Herod’s brother, before marrying Herod. She was also the daughter of their other brother, Aristobulus.

- Herod divorced his wife to marry Herodias, which led to both Herod and Herodias committing adultery and a form of incest.
- John the Baptist condemned this marriage, backed up by **Leviticus 18:16 and 20:21.**
- Leviticus 20:21a

A GRUDGE

Herodias married Herod for power, politics, and affection, but John confronted this sin with the truth.

- Though Herod felt some conviction, Herodias allowed bitterness and hatred to cloud her heart, distancing herself from God.
- **We must embrace repentance and address sin, for unchecked tendencies can harden our hearts against God’s guiding conviction.**

A BANQUET AND A DANCE

Herod was throwing a party for his birthday, inviting all the big dogs and hoping to impress them.

- Herodias seized the opportunity and had her daughter dance, intending to be both shocking and provocative to win the approval of the all-male audience.
- Salome was a young teenager, possibly as young as 12 or 13.

A PROMISE MADE

Herod was so impressed he made an oath, pledging to give her up to half his kingdom. Though he and his guests knew it was not his to give, it symbolized his commitment to offer her anything within his power.

- **Sin has a way of gradually taking hold of us, trapping us as slaves and leading us into deeper bondage. The only escape comes when we turn to Christ.**

THE REQUEST MADE

Salome approached her mother for guidance and boldly requested the head of John the Baptist. Instead of fearing God, Herod succumbed to the fear of how he would be judged by his guests.

- **We often face pressure that can deter us from doing what is right, even when no one is watching. How can we live more courageously in the midst of pressure?**

RESCUE

- Most of us are trying to get away from pain rather than accepting more.
- **Not everyone who says yes to Jesus experiences the complete fulfillment of their faith in this life.**
- Our circumstances might not improve; they may even become more challenging. Yet, God calls us to remain obedient and faithful, regardless of life’s outcomes.

FAITH

- The only way we can live like this is through genuine faith.
- **Jesus’ friends and family struggled to see His true nature and accept His message because of their preconceived notions of who He was.**
- **What beliefs do we cling to about God and our lives that cause us to doubt as we encounter Jesus?**

MISSION

- As God helps us break free from the lies of unbelief and opens our heart to His gift of faith, He transforms our desires.
- **As our desires change, so does our purpose. The world’s temptations fade into the background, while the beauty of a transformed life becomes more significant.**
- What are we living for today? Are we dedicating our lives to God’s mission, or are we pursuing our own? Only one of these paths will truly satisfy.