

- Have you ever known someone famous? How do you treat them as opposed to everyone else?
- Jesus was well known, but when he returned home, his welcome was less than what we would expect.

Mark 6:1-6 (NLT) ¹Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown. ²The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, "Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?" ³Then they scoffed, "He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us." They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. ⁴Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family." ⁵And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

- His own people are amazed at first, but then something happens. Instead of continuing to be amazed at what Jesus is saying and doing, they remembered the guy they'd seen grow up.
 - They said, "_____"
 - Their thinking about Jesus trivializes what He is doing, and it actually offends them!
 - He was only a carpenter. Most other rabbis had trained other another rabbi.
 - When they say, "Isn't this Mary's son?" the statement is loaded. Many (most?) didn't believe the story of the virgin birth, which meant they thought of Jesus as illegitimate.
- Jesus was only _____ twice: at the belief of a Gentile (Luke 7:9) and at the lack of belief by the Jews (the people in His own town).

- We hear this and think, "How could they miss this?" Yet, how often do we trivialize Jesus?

Philippians 2:9-11 (NLT) ⁹Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.
- Every time we minimize His power we, in essence, treat Him the same way: "It's just Jesus."
- We sometimes trivialize Jesus by the way we worship. Instead of coming to worship Him in awe, reverence, and gratitude, we come with our list of complaints and expectations as to what we desire. Has the Savior become "Just Jesus" to you?

"The moment you categorized something as common that was sent to be special, you trip over the miracle because you miss it in the mundane."

-Steven Furtick, ("Trapped in Nazareth," *Savage Jesus*, Elevation Church. May 6, 2018.)

- Jesus went home purposefully, knowing full well what his reception would be like.

Mark 6:6-11 (NLT) ⁶Then Jesus went from village to village, teaching the people. ⁷And he called his twelve disciples together and began sending them out two by two, giving them authority to cast out evil spirits. ⁸He told them to take nothing for their journey except a walking stick - no food, no traveler's bag, no money. ⁹He allowed them to wear sandals but not to take a change of clothes. ¹⁰"Wherever you go," he said, "stay in the same house until you leave town. ¹¹But if any place refuses to welcome you or listen to you, shake its dust from your feet as you leave to show that you have abandoned those people to their fate."

- Jesus was getting ready to send out His disciples and knew they wouldn't always be received well.
 - What better way to show them what to expect than to go to His home town?
- Jesus knows what it feels like when you are rejected because of His name.

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- *"And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them..."*

- Did they somehow thwart the plans of the omnipotent God?
- This wasn't because Jesus was powerless because of their lack of faith. They didn't allow Him to do anything.
 - God won't _____ people to receive what they don't want.
- He wants to perform miracles in our life, but He will only do them if we let Him.
- God wants everyone to know this!

John 20:30-31 (NLT) ³⁰The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

- The miracles He performs typically happen over time and often through hardship. Seldom does it happen as the instantaneous transformation that we hope and pray for.
 - The disciples had to do their part.
 - They had to be willing to step into the unknown.
 - They had to be willing to follow Jesus' command to take nothing with them.
 - We have a part, as well. It's the smaller part, but it is a part.
 - We have to step out in faith.
 - We have to have a posture of awareness of who God is and what He wants to do.
 - We have to have a posture of dependence on Him.

Things to Think About:

1. Think about how you view Jesus. How does that need to change?
2. What does it look like to do your part in what God is asking you to do while maintaining the appropriate level of dependence on Him?

The Book of Mark Reading Plan:

June 10-June 16: **Mark 6:53-7:23**

June 17-June 23: **Mark 7:24-8:26**

June 24-June 30: **Mark 8:27-9:13**