

Mark 6:1

“A Perfect Person in a sinful world”

I. Introduction

II. Vs. 1 Familiarity breeds contempt?

I. Introduction

In the first 6 verses of chapter 6 Mark finishes off this section with the limits of human popularity by showing **another hindrance when popularity is coupled with familiarity**. These two collided in Jesus’ home town of Nazareth, as what had been heard about Him crashed head long into what the people from His home town had believed about Him for 30 years. Charles Darwin once said that **belief** was “*the most complete of all distinctions between man and the lower animals.*” Though I disagree with Darwinism I would say that his observation, suggests that when a person exhibits a “*lack of faith or unbelief*” it puts them on a lower level than the lower part of creation. I made the statement during the teaching last week that one of the common denominators in that those who DID receive a touch from Jesus is that they approached Him in brokenness and humility. The other side of the coin is in this chapter where we see a community that had grown up with Jesus and had every reason to trust Him, choice to not do so. The author of Hebrews in chapter 3 verse 12 warns his readers saying, “*Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.*”

II. Vs. 1 Familiarity breeds contempt?

Vs. 1 Before we get to far into the text there are some general observations of this section which will take up our entire time this morning. We will take up the text in it’s entirety next week. I’m taking the time in this section because I believe that this text before us

goes a long way in clearing up some mysteries with regards to Jesus upbringing is this little village of Nazareth. So we will be looking at all 6 verses as it relates to this before breaking it apart next week. Though Nazareth was not His birth place (Bethlehem was) it was here the vast majority of His earthly life was spent with the exception of the short stay in Egypt. For all practical purposes Nazareth was His “*home town*”. There is only one bible verse that addresses Jesus’ childhood and it is in Luke chapter 2 verses 41-52. There we are told of the incident at Jesus bar mitzvah in the temple where He amazed the scholars with His understanding of scripture. Luke concludes that little portion of Jesus’ transition from childhood to an adult with the only phrase that grants any insight of what His early life was like saying, “*He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And **Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.***” What that means specifically is left for many a person’s imaginations. There have been fanciful stories of Jesus doing all sorts of miracles, healing birds, and other animals, parting rivers and streams but these are unsubstantiated fairytales. This passage I believe clears up a good portion of the mystery. First off Mark in verse 3 tells us that Jesus was living with His parents and as time went by this family grew as Mark records 4 half brothers and then mentions that He also had half sisters though he doesn’t record a specific number for us. This section indirectly tells us **two things about Jesus upbringing:**

1. **Nothing miraculous:** Looking at the text we are told that those who had grown up with Him in this little village were “*astonished*” both about the “*wisdom that was given Him*” and “*such mighty works...performed by His hands*”. According to Luke chapter 4:16-30, Jesus had come to Nazareth a year earlier right after His temptation

by satan in the wilderness but prior to any public miraculous works. At that time; He had gone into the synagogue of His youth on the Sabbath, opened up the scroll of Isaiah and read, *“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”* He then rolled up the scroll and told his neighbors that in their hearing the words of Isaiah were now fulfilled. And though they marveled at gracious tone of Jesus’ words they question the validity of His announcement saying, *“Is this not Joseph’s son?”* Jesus then launched into a prophetic announcement that a *“prophet is without honor in his own country”*. He backed that statement by stating that during the times of two of the greatest *miracle workers* in Israel’s history; *both Elijah and Elisha, their greatest miracles were done not in Israel but in gentile regions because of unbelief.* Jesus’ fellow villager’s response to this was to take Him out of the synagogue to a cliff in an attempt to throw Him off, but He just passed through them and left. My point is that there clearly had been NO “recovery of sight to the blind, OR the setting at liberty those who are oppressed” during Jesus’ 30 years with them. This is further supported by this text in Mark as they again would NOT have been “astonished” by what they had heard in the year since Jesus had been among them. Instead they would have said, *“Yah, we saw Him do all sorts of miracles and works during the 30 years He lived here!”* Instead these villagers who were well acquainted with Jesus do not deny what they have been hearing about Jesus’ fame, there are ONLY astonishment is because they had not witnessed or heard of it for the 30 years He lived among them. This is further backed by their statement

found in Luke chapter 4 of, “*Is this not Joseph’s son?*” and here before us in Mark chapter 6 “*Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary?*” These two statements are in essence saying, “**Are you sure you got the right Jesus?**” And apparently their opinion hadn’t changed in a year even with the increased awareness of the miracles that had been accomplished by Him. They would **NOT** have made those statements if Jesus had been performing “*mighty works among them for thirty years*”! Based upon Luke’s words of **Jesus increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men,** I’m of the opinion that what they witnessed was a “**perfect person living in a sin-filled world**”! All through Jesus’ youth and on into adult hood **He lived among them PERFECTLY, albeit NOT outwardly miraculously.** In other word’s, **other than His day to day perfection,** there was nothing that separated Him or distinguished Him from others in His family or those who lived around Him. **His uniqueness lies in His inward character that manifested its self in a perfect life.** It was only visible in that He never told even 1 lie, always treated people with love and grace, spoke the truth and was never 1 time self-centered. I’m certain that He had a great reputation as far as His work as a carpenter was concerned. **That leads to another question: “Why then do these people have such contempt for Jesus, if He lived so perfectly among them?”** That question leads me to the 2nd aspect to Jesus’ upbringing in this little village of Nazareth.

2. **People had a hard time with His virgin birth:** I’ve come to this conclusion by piecing together several scriptures along with this last statement of the villagers of Nazareth “*Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary?*” Mary and Joseph were from Nazareth they had grown up here and their pending marriage would have been

common knowledge and like all Jewish weddings a community event. All that changed when Mary a virgin received a visit from the angel Gabriel and was told that she was highly favored among women because she had been chosen to conceive and bring forth a Son whom she calls Jesus. Though Gabriel's message was amazing as it related to the prophetic truth's promised Israel it did cause her to question not the promises but the means which they would be fulfilled namely her seeing that, "*she had never known a man*"! Gabriel explained to her that this would be accomplished supernaturally by way of the Holy Spirit and that Jesus will be the Son of God. He finished by saying to her that her much older cousin Elizabeth was 6 months along herself and that "*With God nothing is impossible*". Mary, this amazing young girl, received this truth, left Nazareth and went to visit Elizabeth for the next 3 months in a city in the area of Judah. Upon here arrival John the Baptist still in Elizabeth's womb leapt in her womb and the Holy Spirit tells Elizabeth that Mary is pregnant with the Messiah and they praise God. Mary then returns back home to Nazareth three months pregnant with some explaining to do with Joseph. He being a righteous man obviously loved her but couldn't take her as his wife seeing that she was pregnant with what he initially believed was another man's child. He too received a visit from an angel that Mary's pregnancy was of the Holy Spirit. All of this information is relevant as it relates to this small village where everyone would have known everybody. **This village I believe was far less accepting and believing of Joseph's Mary's explanation of her pregnancy.** This is the reason why every incident that reinforced what Gabriel had told them was as Luke said in chapter 2 verse 51 something that Mary "*kept.... in her heart.*" I think it also explains why Mary

responds the way she does at the wedding at Cana which was a neighboring city of Nazareth. Chronologically that event took place at the same time Jesus had been in Nazareth a year earlier. At that time, I believe that Mary was asking Jesus to reveal His true identity which had remained hidden and a source of her personal ridicule in Nazareth for 30 years leaving her with only Joseph and the things she treasured in her heart as a comfort. You will recall that Jesus told His mother on that occasion that “*His hour had not yet come*” for Him to reveal His true identity. Those words indicate that only His death and resurrection would truly reveal this. The final piece of the puzzle is found in the statement from the villagers who knew Jesus and said to Him are you not “*the carpenter, the son of Mary?*” That is never the way Jewish people would refer to a person’s family origins as **it is an indication of being illegitimate** which I believe is how they viewed Him. If you go to John’s gospel in chapter 8 verse 41 you can hear what the religious leaders no doubt had picked up from the villagers of Nazareth as they fired back at Jesus “**We are not born of fornication; we have one Father-God**”. **In their mind Jesus was conceived outside of marriage either by Joseph or some other man.** A year earlier they said that Jesus was Joseph son conceived outside of marriage, and now He was Mary’s son conceived outside of marriage; as far as they were concerned He could be Joseph’s or Mary’s **illegitimate son** but He could not be **God the Son!**

When you consider most of the unbelieving world’s view of Jesus, they are fine with Him being a great teacher, they rather like the fact that He turned against the religious establishment and had no interest in politics. They like that He identified with the common person, was compassionate to the poor and down trodden. There are two things

that the world will not ever agree with when it comes to Jesus: His virgin birth and His resurrection! Make Him a good man, a moral man, or any other kind of virtue but don't make Him the Son of God!