

## Mark 6:1-6

### “The majesty of the Master”

- I. **Introduction**
- II. **Vs. 2-3 The mystery of the Master**
- III. **Vs. 4-6 The marvel of faith**

#### I. **Introduction**

While in the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of Mark last week we spent the entirety of our time looking at the mystery that was the majesty of the Master in His early earthly life. I for one won't be the same for the time we spent looking at His perfection. But equally surprising was the reactions of the villagers from His home town. It wasn't the “mighty works” that took them aback it was that these were being attributed to the Jesus they knew. Usually when that is the assessment it is because the person who is being evaluated has such a bad reputation as to warrant the reaction. But that was simply not the case with Jesus; you would have thought that they would have said in light of His perfection, “*Well that makes perfect sense, He was always such a polite and caring person while He lived here.*” In the case of Jesus their familiarity with Him bred contempt that was **NOT BECAUSE** of His character but **IN SPITE** of it. Listed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse is four observations that puzzled them about Jesus whom they had known for 30 years:

- **The source of His knowledge**
- **The character of His wisdom**
- **The significance of His power**
- **The majesty of His person**

That these four observation was the source of contempt is an indictment not upon Jesus but upon the villagers of Nazareth who had witnessed of His perfection for 30 years. The only conclusion you can come up with is that these four things will always remain a

mystery to those who CHOOSE to believe that Jesus is NOT and cannot ever be the Son of God! People that refuse to believe, will never be able to see:

- How a mere carpenter could be a prophet!
- How a person who grew up in their midst could have such character!

No, they fall into the trap that so many do, that a person's education or upbringing determines a person's character. They will continue to believe that some how God must work through their own preconceived acceptable channels of their choosing and if God so chooses to not do so He will be subject to their preconceived prejudices.

## **II. Vs. 2-3 The mystery of the Master**

Vs. 2-3 A year later the hearts of those in Nazareth are still hard towards their own native son Jesus. Though they don't kick Him out of the synagogue and attempt to throw Him off the cliff they nonetheless are offended by Him. He had left the crowds in Galilee to the quite of His small home town. *What amazing grace Jesus has towards those who reject and mock Him! He still desires to reach those with His love! People who have and continue to have no affection towards Him and aren't even open to the possibility of honest inquiry.* From the perspective of Jesus disciples who had just witnessed a lifeless girl being brought back to life in Capernaum it must have seemed as a strange strategy to take leave of this highly effective environment and go back to a place where a year ago it had not only been ineffective it had nearly been fatal. They had witnessed this little village where they had treated Him so poorly. They had just seen life where there was once death and now they were in Nazareth a village that was dead where once the author of life was! What a lesson for all of Jesus' disciples that seem to think that successful ministry is to be gaged upon record breaking numbers and amazing events

instead of faithful obedience in reaching people who may not want to be reached!

As was the custom the ruler for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time invited Jesus to speak on the Sabbath. But instead of His teaching drawing praise for the **content, power** and the fact that He was a **home town boy made good**, it again brought the same general questioning it had a year earlier. Their astonishment was not in the truth He spoke or the way in which He spoke it. NO, they just couldn't seem to get over their prejudice due to the familiarity with Him. *"Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands."* They had heard of His fame and popularity but to them He was still a controversial figure due to the reputation of His mother Mary. Her story was well known in this little town how she was pregnant prior to her marriage to Joseph. Jesus had worked with Joseph in the building trade; they knew his brothers and apparently His sisters still lived in Nazareth and all of this offended them. To the people of this little "*Bean*" town of Nazareth Jesus was at best an unimportant carpenter whose parents didn't have a good reputation. In their small mindedness they just couldn't get beyond this and discounted all of which others were attributing to Him. These folks had been His neighbors, they had sat next to Him at the synagogue, had Him build them something. A carpenter was a respected craftsman in that day, but nobody expected a carpenter to do miracles or teach profound truths in the synagogue. Where did He get all this power and wisdom? And why didn't the rest of His family possess this same power and wisdom? Even more, why did His brothers and sisters not believe in Him? There is that old maxim that says, *"Familiarity breeds contempt"* but the contempt shown by Jesus fellow citizens says nothing about Him and

everything about them. They couldn't get beyond what their own prejudices prescribed. The Greek word "*offended*" is where we get our English word *scandalize* and as hard as it is for us to understand Jesus instead of being a great source of community pride was a source of embarrassment as they viewed Him as a scandal. They did what so many still do today, "***They couldn't explain Him, so they rejected Him.***" They look with eyes that didn't see anything special about Jesus. When it comes to Jesus there are only two possibilities:

1. You are **like these villagers who see nothing amazing about the Son of God!**
2. You see **nothing about Jesus** that **ISN'T AMAZING!**

### **III.Vs. 4-6 The marvel of faith Introduction**

Vs. 4-6 Mark doesn't say that Jesus "***Should***" do no mighty works but that He "***Could***" do no mighty works because of their unbelief. Jesus pointed out to the villagers that such a prejudicial evaluation is a product of the fallen nature. What a tragedy it is when people are unable and unwilling to recognize worth and honor even when they are most familiar and acquainted with. Such an evaluation never harms Jesus but it does limit His ability to minister to them, to heal and touch them with His love and truth. It is amazing to me that Jesus still responded to the few that could get beyond their faith limiting prejudice but no great work was done in His home town. To this day though the town is recognized as the town where Jesus was raised there is nothing honorable about Nazareth and in fact it remains in the area dominated by Muslims and if you are visiting it you won't be able to take your Jewish tour guide. With all three of these accounts:

- Jairus

- The woman with the issue of blood
- And Jesus interaction with His home town of Nazareth

Each of these folks had to get beyond their limited view of the person and work of Jesus. We limit the possibilities of our encounter with Him if we fail to come to Him as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords in broken humble recognition of Who He is. We must also not that we need to recognize not only who He is with regards to His abilities but we also note who He is with regards to His character and willingness! Had Nazareth just came to Him broken, humbled recognizing that even though they had defamed Him and His family, He would do mighty works among them! When you read through the gospels only twice do we read that something happened that caused Jesus to marvel:

- a. Here in Mark chapter 6 verse 6 we are told that ***Jesus marveled at the unbelief*** of the Jews from His home town.
- b. Then in Luke 7:9 we are told that ***Jesus marveled at the belief*** of the Roman Centurion.

The character and nature of the Lord made it impossible for Him to marvel except when it came to: ***Faith or the lack of it! In both of these incidents faith is the common denominator in the things that caused Jesus to marvel while on earth.*** The Jewish people had been blessed with superior revelation from God which should have provided them a greater advantage of trusting God. And there should have been no village with a better opportunity in viewing “***Emanuel***” (God with us) then Nazareth and these villagers. ***If Israel was court side seats, then Nazareth was center court front row.*** Yet when you consider a gentile Roman Centurion, who had no direct revelation, he definitely was in the nose bleed section if he was in the stadium at all. What this reveals is

that the condition of a person's heart is the greatest determining factor to belief and faith. Because of the hardness of the heart of His neighbors in Nazareth Jesus was unable to bless, heal and teach those that He loved and instead Jesus departed and made another circuit to the towns and villages around the Sea of Galilee and to enable greater efficiency in this He commissioned His disciples so that they would have the power and authority to be effective ministers.