

HOMETOWN UNBELIEF

--MARK 6:1-6--

INTRODUCTION:

As we have made our way through the first five chapters of Mark, we have seen the astonishment of the people at both the teaching of Jesus and at the divine power displayed in His miracles. Only two times in the New Testament are we told that Jesus was amazed by the people, and both of those occasions involved faith. On the positive side, Jesus marveled at the strong faith of a Roman centurion in Capernaum. This man's faith was expressed by believing that Jesus could just say the word and the slave that he wanted healed would be healed. By contrast, the other time that Jesus marveled was in His hometown of Nazareth, and He marveled at the utter absence of faith that He found in the townspeople. We will be looking at this event in our passage this morning.

I. UNBELIEF CONCEALS THE UNDENIABLE (Mark 6:1-2)

- a. This passage follows close behind several significant _____ performed by Jesus that we have looked at over the past several weeks.
- b. The trip to Nazareth recorded in this passage was Jesus second recorded visit to His _____ since the start of His public ministry.
- c. It is several months, possibly even close to a _____ later when Jesus decided to return to Nazareth a second and final time.
- d. Even though the first visit and Jesus' preaching in the synagogue had ended violently, Jesus was again invited to _____ in the synagogue.
- e. Mark records that the many _____ who heard Jesus teach that day were astonished.
- f. If they would not have been questioning where Jesus had gotten these things, they would have seen that His wisdom and miracles proved, beyond any reasonable doubt, that Jesus was from God, that He was the _____, the Son of God.

- g. The residents of Nazareth did not attribute Jesus' wisdom and power to Satan, but at the same time they were not willing to acknowledge that His _____ and power came from God.

II. UNBELIEF LIFTS UP THE UNIMPORTANT (Mark 6:3)

- a. The townspeople reasoned that the obvious _____ for Jesus' wisdom and power could not be true, they began to focus on the unimportant information to justify their unbelief to who Jesus claimed to be.
- b. To maintain their unbelief, they began to raise issues that were unimportant and in no way _____ to the question at hand.
- c. They asked themselves, "Is not this the _____?"
- d. The townspeople also pointed out that Jesus was the Son of _____.
- e. They not only knew that Jesus was Mary's oldest son, but they also knew that He was the _____ of James and Joses and Judas and Simon.
- f. Using the unimportant and irrelevant information of Jesus' occupation and family, the townspeople used these as stumbling blocks to _____ their unbelief.

III. UNBELIEF IS OFFENDED (Mark 6:3-4)

- a. Unbelief soon made what had been amazement and astonishment turn to _____, they took offense at Him.
- b. "*Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without _____ except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own household.'*" (Mark 6:4, NASB95)
- c. When His message cannot be refuted, unbelievers will not hesitate to _____ Him and anyone who speaks for Him.

IV. UNBELIEF DESPISES THE MIRACULOUS (Mark 6:5-6)

- a. How did Jesus _____ to the unbelief of the residents of His hometown?
- b. I have heard it said that Jesus could not do any miracles because His _____ to do so depended on the faith of the people. That is false.

- c. The unbelief and rejection by the residents of Nazareth was so fixed that even Jesus _____ or marveled at their unbelief. (2nd Corinthians 4:3-4)

CONCLUSION:

In these few verses we have seen the first soil in Jesus' parable of the four soils. The residents of Nazareth had hearts that were like the hard packed paths where some of the sower's seed fell. The seed had no hope of germinating as it lay on the surface of the path under the scorching sun. It did not lay there long, as it was quickly picked up and eaten by a bird. Jesus explained that those whose hearts are hardened by unbelief if they have any word sowed on them have it quickly taken away by Satan. Just as Paul wrote in the verse, I just read to you from 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, "*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4, NASB95) Even if they are astonished by the teaching of the word and amazed by the report of the miracles, Satan will put doubts, raise unimportant and irrelevant information to act as stumbling blocks to justify the person's unbelief in their mind. As you share Christ in this world you will run into people who are like the residents of Nazareth, when you do witness to them and move on as Jesus did, but don't let their response of unbelief discourage you because there will be others that you will witness to who have the soil of their hearts prepared by the Spirit of God and the word will sink into that soft moist soil and germinate and produce a yield of 30, 60 or 100 fold. All we are called to do is to be faithful sowers of the seed.