

Recap of 7/9/23 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 6: 2-13):

1. Jesus visits His hometown of Nazareth. At first the people are amazed at His teaching but that soon gave way to disparaging questions: where did He get His teaching; where did He get this wisdom; where did He get such power and authority to do miracles. Amazement gave way to thoughts such as, He's just a carpenter; He's Mary's Son, spoken derogatorily, refers to the special circumstances of His birth; his immediate family lives among us; who does He think He is! And amazement gives way to being offended.

-*"The people of Nazareth despised Jesus because He was a working man. To us that is His glory, because it means that God, when He came to earth, claimed no exemptions. He took upon Himself the common life with all its common tasks. We must ever beware of the temptation to evaluate men by externals and incidentals, and not by native worth."* (Barclay)

-*We must resist the temptation to judge people by their jobs, clothes, status/position, wealth, etc.*

2. The people of Nazareth were offended because Jesus was a working man, a common laborer. Jesus endured the greater humiliation of becoming man so that He, the God-man might provide redemption for us. The depth of His humility is seen in passages such as: Hebrews 1:1,2; 2:8b; Philippians 2:5-11.

-*"It shows us plainly that for the first thirty years of His life, our Lord was not ashamed to work with His own hands. There is something marvelous and overwhelming in the thought! He who made heaven, and earth, and sea, and all that therein is —He, without whom nothing was made that was made, —the Son of God Himself, took on Him the form of a servant, and 'in the sweat of His face ate bread, 'as a working man. This is indeed that 'love of Christ that passeth knowledge.' Though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor. Both in life and death He humbled Himself, that through Him sinners might live and reign for evermore."* (Ryle)

3. Jesus could not do many miracles in Nazareth. It is not that His power was limited—it was lack of faith on the part of those from His hometown so that they would not accept the evidence about Who He was and why He came. They not only did not believe in Him—they rejected Him. Only a few had the faith to come to Him for healing.

-*"It is neither the want of evidence, nor the difficulties of Christian doctrine, that make men unbelievers. It is want of will to believe. They love sin. They are wedded to the world. In this state of mind they never lack specious reasons to confirm their will."* (Ryle)

4. The instructions for the ministry of Mark 6:7-13 are unique to these missions, not universal. They were to demonstrate dependence upon God, to travel light, indicating the urgency of the mission. They could be summarized as: to trust God and not beg.