

A Study of the Gospel of Mark
Week 6: Mark 6:1-44 | Oct. 12/13, 2013

**Imitating Jesus, Part II:
Lessons from Unbelief**



A lot has happened since the last time Jesus was rejected in the synagogue in Mark chapter 3. Since then He has gathered twelve disciples, taught with parables that forced people to decide about God's kingdom, stopped a storm, cast out thousands of demons, healed incurable diseases and revived a girl. In Mark 6, Jesus returns to His hometown, Nazareth, and encounters various kinds of unbelief.

The Unbelief of Jesus' Hometown | Read Mark 6:1-6a

[Q] Why do the people in Nazareth take offense at Jesus?

Sometimes our familiarity with Jesus and the Bible prevents us from:

- really knowing Him
- seeing His sufficiency for our needs
- seeing His glory and beauty

[Q] Is going to church or reading Scripture sometimes the "same old thing" for you? What might help you get a fresh look?

[Q] Jesus is amazed at the lack of faith in His hometown. Read Luke 7:9. What else was Jesus "amazed" at?

Apply:

We have been placed by God in one of the most unbelieving regions in the United States. [Q] Will you pray:

- For your surrounding area to come to know the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ?
- That those who already seem familiar with Christ will see Him afresh and trust Him?

"Unbelief is sin because it is an insult to the truthfulness of God." – Billy Graham

The Unbelief of Herod | Read Mark 6:14-29.

Jesus' reputation comes to the attention of King Herod. [Q] What were others saying about Jesus? (vv. 14-15)

Extra:

Jesus Sends out the Disciples
Read Mark 6:6b-13.

[Q] Why do you think Jesus tells the disciples not to take anything for the journey?

[Q] Even though the culture had a tradition of hospitality to strangers, what response were the disciples prepared for?

[Q] Have you experience rejection when serving or speaking of Jesus? If so, how?

Apply:

Ask the Holy Spirit for His wisdom, power and courage for all the settings where you represent Jesus.

Herod believes Jesus is John the Baptist raised from the dead. In the weekend message, *guilt* is defined as “pain pointing to truth. “If you plant truth in someone’s heart, it will keep on working even after you’ve given up on them.”

[Q]What do you think of this definition? Has this been true in your experience? If so, how?

The Unbelief of the Disciples | Read Mark 6:30-44.

[Q] In verses 30-34, how does Jesus demonstrate what a shepherd is?

[Q] How does Jesus demonstrate what a shepherd does? (Notice the word “so” in verse 34.)

[Q] List some ways Jesus has had compassion on you.

Extra:

In addition to the story of John the Baptist’s death, we meet Herod Antipas one more time in the Gospels: when he “tried” Jesus and hoped to see the Lord perform a miracle (Luke 23:6–12).

What was Jesus’ response to this man?

Read Luke 13:31–35. Why do you think Jesus used this particular description?

Apply

[Q] Jesus involved the disciples in the miracle, in spite of their doubt. What doubts could you talk to Him about?

[Q] Do you see a need somewhere or in someone? In what way is God calling you to serve Him by faith? Could you follow the pattern of Jesus when He fed the huge crowd?

1. Discover the need.
2. Examine your resources (how much do you have?)
3. Thank God for the little you have.
4. Start meeting the need.

Pray
