

Encounters with Jesus

The Nazarenes

(Mark 6:1-6)

- Introduction:
1. Home. That word holds fond memories for many people.
 2. It takes you back to your childhood, family, and childhood friends.
 3. I wonder if Jesus was a little excited to come back home to Nazareth as recorded in Mark 6.
 4. If he was, his excitement was short-lived.
 5. Let's read the text and make some applications.

I. The Setting

- A. Jesus brought his disciples to his hometown (Mark 6:1).
- B. While there, Jesus taught in the synagogue (Mark 6:2).
- C. His teaching and power caused the locals to wonder how he came to possess such wisdom and power (Mark 6:3).
- D. They remember Jesus as a local boy and dismissed the possibility that he could be something greater than that (Mark 6:3).
- E. Thus, they were offended by him (Mark 6:3).
- F. Because of their disbelief, he only healed a few people (Mark 6:5).
- G. Then the text says, "He marveled because of their unbelief" and left (Mark 6:6).

II. Lessons to Learn

- A. There is no excuse for unbelief (Romans 1:20).
 1. Jesus came to Nazareth with an established reputation of mighty works, and did some in their presence, but they were unmoved.
 2. Skepticism even causes God to "scratch his head."
 3. If that is true then, how much more is it true today?
- B. Familiarity can breed disrespect.
 1. Master your pride and give a fair hearing to people, especially when it has to do with our salvation
 2. (James 1:17).
- C. There comes a time to move on.
 1. We can't make people be saved.
 2. At times it is heartbreaking, but no one was more brokenhearted than Jesus, when he walked away from his friends and hometown neighbors, but more than that, his creation.
 3. (Matthew 10:14; Matthew 7:6).

- Conclusion:
1. Friends, you need to make a decision about Jesus.
 2. There's no excuse for disbelief.
 3. Others can't make you, but you will have to own your own decision and answer before God someday.
 4. What will your answer be?