

JESUS IN HIS HOMETOWN AND BEYOND

Mark 6:1-56

Jesus went out from there and came into His hometown; and His disciples followed Him. ² When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him. ⁴ Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own household." ⁵ And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And He wondered at their unbelief. And He was going around the villages teaching. Mark 6:1-6 NASB

- **Jesus comes to Nazareth, His hometown.**
 - **On the Sabbath He was teaching in the synagogue.**
 - **Synagogue: a place where Jews could go to study the scriptures and worship. Any town with at least ten married Jewish men could have a synagogue...the synagogue in Nazareth...welcome back Jesus!**
 - **He taught and many people heard Him and they were astonished!**

² And on the Sabbath He began to teach in the synagogue; and many who listened to Him were utterly astonished, saying, Where did this Man acquire all this? What is the wisdom [the broad and full intelligence which has been] given to Him? What mighty works and exhibitions of power are wrought by His hands! ³ Is not this the Carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here among us? And they took offense at Him and were hurt [that is, they disapproved of Him, and it hindered them from acknowledging His authority] and they were caused to stumble and fall. Mark 6:2-3 AMPC

- **Where did Jesus acquire all this wisdom? How can He know so much? And what about all these miracles?**
- **What is His source?**
- **Isn't He just a carpenter?**

- ***We know His mother Mary and His brothers and sisters.***
- ***They took offense at Him...who does He think He is?***
- ***They were filled with envy and jealousy and it caused them to stumble and fall.***
- ***Jesus responds..."There is no prophet without honor except in His own country, among His own relatives, and in His own home..."Weymouth***
- ***His own friends, relatives, and family showed Him no honor or respect.***

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. ² For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. ³ For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Romans 10:1-4 NASB

¹⁷ So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart. Ephesians 4:17-18 NASB

- ***Jesus did not do as much in His hometown as He intended or desired to do...He did heal some people miraculously but He had more in mind.***
- ***But...He wondered, He was marveling at their unbelief...their response and the lack of their response was astonishing to Jesus. Can you imagine doing something that caused Jesus to marvel?***
- ***This is the exact opposite of what healing, signs, wonders and miracles are supposed to have!***

⁷ And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits; ⁸ and He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belt— ⁹ but to wear sandals; and He added, "Do not put on two tunics." ¹⁰ And He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town. ¹¹ Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake the dust off the soles of your feet for a testimony against

them.”¹² They went out and preached that men should repent.¹³ And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them. Mark 6:7-13 NASB

- **Jesus sends out the twelve disciples.**
 - **They went out in pairs, two by two, I wonder who was paired up with Judas?**
 - **They took no money, no change of clothes, no weapons, no American express! They took only their staffs and the authority over unclean spirits...so they were fully loaded!**
 - **They preached a repentance message (the gospel of the kingdom) and people got delivered from demons and healed.**
 - **This is their first taste of ‘hands on’ ministry!**

¹⁴ And King Herod heard of it, for His name had become well known; and people were saying, “John the Baptist has risen from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in Him.”¹⁵ But others were saying, “He is Elijah.” And others were saying, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.”¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he kept saying, “John, whom I beheaded, has risen!”¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent and had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, because he had married her.¹⁸ For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”¹⁹ Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death and could not do so;²⁰ for Herod was afraid of John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. And when he heard him, he was very perplexed; but he used to enjoy listening to him.²¹ A strategic day came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his lords and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee;²² and when the daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests; and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you want and I will give it to you.”²³ And he swore to her, “Whatever you ask of me, I will give it to you; up to half of my kingdom.”²⁴ And she went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask for?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist.”²⁵ Immediately she came in a hurry to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”²⁶ And although the king was very sorry, yet because of his oaths and because of his dinner guests, he was unwilling to refuse her.²⁷ Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded him to bring back his head. And he went and had him beheaded in the prison,²⁸ and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother.²⁹ When his disciples

heard about this, they came and took away his body and laid it in a tomb.

³⁰ The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while." (For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.) ³² They went away in the boat to a secluded place by themselves. Mark 6:14-32 NASB

- **The death of John the Baptist.**
 - **John had confronted Herod about marrying his own brother's wife. His wife, Herodias, had actually initiated the divorce from Herod's brother, something that was unheard of for a woman to do...she truly disliked John the Baptist and arranged to have him put in jail.**
 - **While John is imprisoned, Herod throws a party and Herodias's daughter performs a dance that thrills the crowd and especially Herod.**
 - **Herod promises to give the girl anything she asks for and her mother tells her to ask for John the Baptist's head on a platter.**
 - **John is beheaded and his disciples pick up the body for burial...a sad situation.**
- **The twelve meet up with Jesus to report on their 'missions trip' and to catch up with Him.**
 - **They decide to get in the boat to go to a secluded place to rest and relax.**

³³ The people saw them going, and many recognized them and ran there together on foot from all the cities, and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things. ³⁵ When it was already quite late, His disciples came to Him and said, "This place is desolate and it is already quite late; ³⁶ send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." ³⁷ But He answered them, "You give them something to eat!" And they said to Him, "Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread and give them something to eat?" ³⁸ And He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go look!" And when they found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹ And He commanded them all to sit down by groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ They sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹ And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food and broke the loaves and He kept giving them to the disciples to set before them; and He divided up the two fish among them all. ⁴² They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³ and they picked up twelve

full baskets of the broken pieces, and also of the fish. ⁴⁴ There were five thousand men who ate the loaves. Mark 6:33-44 NASB

- **5,000 men get a 'free lunch'.**

⁴¹ And taking the five loaves and two fish, He looked up to heaven and, praising God, gave thanks and broke the loaves and kept on giving them to the disciples to set before the people; and He [also] divided the two fish among [them] all. ⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied. Mark 6:41-42 AMPC

⁴⁵ Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side to Bethsaida, while He Himself was sending the crowd away. ⁴⁶ After bidding them farewell, He left for the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷ When it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land. ⁴⁸ Seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them. ⁴⁹ But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out; ⁵⁰ for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, "Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid." ⁵¹ Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, ⁵² for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened. Mark 6:45-52 NASB

- **Jesus sends the twelve off to Bethsaida by boat, while He dismisses the well-fed crowd of 5,000 plus and then He stays ashore to pray.**
 - **He comes to pass them, walking on the water about 4am, they see Him and they are totally 'spooked'.**
 - **They cry out in fear, thinking they were seeing a ghost.**
 - **Jesus speaks up, calms the winds and settles their fears as He had done previously.**
 - **The twelve were astonished!j**

⁵⁰ for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, "Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid." ⁵¹ Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, ⁵² for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened. ⁵³ When they had crossed over they came to land at Gennesaret, and moored to the shore. Mark 6:50-53 NASB

- *The disciples had recently been in a storm at sea, much worse than the current one.*
- *They had seen the demoniac get delivered, the hemorrhagic woman healed, and a twelve year old girl raised from the dead.*
- *They had just returned from their first ministry trip where they saw people healed and delivered through the authority and power given to them.*
- *They still have the experience of seeing over 5,000 people fed from 'one order of fish and chips' ...but they still had not fully grasped who Jesus is...*
 - *But I think they will know from now on.*

⁵³ When they had crossed over they came to land at Gennesaret, and moored to the shore. ⁵⁴ When they got out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, ⁵⁵ and ran about that whole country and began to carry here and there on their pallets those who were sick, to the place they heard He was. ⁵⁶ Wherever He entered villages, or cities, or countryside, they were laying the sick in the market places, and imploring Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched it were being cured. Mark 6:53-56

- *A remarkable demonstration of the healing power of Jesus.*
- *People from all around the area came and they were all healed, cured, and restored.*
- *What a beautiful picture of God's love and power.*