

FPFWC Christian Development



Many Faces of Wisdom
July 2020

Summer Quarter

July 18, 2020

Lesson #3 – The Wisdom of Jesus

SCRIPTURE TEXT – Mark 6:1-6,

Key Verse: “When the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? . . . And they were offended at him.”—Mark 6:2, 3b

ICE BREAKERS

1. What can we do to prevent ourselves from having the same lack of faith that the people in Nazareth had?
2. How does pride undermine our faith in Jesus Christ?

LESSON BACKGROUND

Mark's Gospel is the shortest of the four accounts of Jesus' life in the New Testament. Its focus on Jesus' mighty deeds exposes a contrast between the faith of some and the disbelief of others.

Mark begins his Gospel with stories highlighting the joyous excitement of people who are blessed by Jesus' healing (Mark 1:21-34, 40-45). But soon we see religious leaders who object to Jesus' words and deeds (3:1-6). Confronted with danger, the 12 disciples Jesus had appointed (3:13-19) failed in their faith (4:35-41).

In the middle of a very mixed set of responses to His ministry, Jesus tells a parable of seed falling on different kinds of soil (Mark 4:1-9). The varying results represent different responses of faith and unbelief to God's good news (4:10-20). Jesus' experience at home leads us to today's text. (Matthew 13:53-58 and Luke 4:16-30 are parallel.)

LESSON COMMENTARY

6:1-3. Jesus left Capernaum accompanied by His disciples and came to Nazareth, His hometown. As a rabbi with a growing reputation, Jesus would have been asked to speak in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Those who listened **were astonished**, marveling at His **wisdom** and wondering about its source. They also wondered about the **miracles** He was performing. They had seen Him work with wood as their **carpenter** for many years. They acknowledged He was **the son of Mary**, and His brothers **James, Joses, Judas**, and **Simon** are mentioned along with unnamed sisters. These people were saying, "We know this Jesus. He is common. He is one of us." They stumbled over Him and failed to follow Him.

6:4-6. Tragically, even His own family disbelieved Jesus' Messianic claims (cf. Jn 7:1-5). Yet some of His family later became His followers. James became the leader of the church in Jerusalem, according to Ac 15:13, and was the author of the epistle that bears his name. James's brother wrote the book of Jude (see Jd 1). Since Nazareth did not believe in Him, He only healed **a few sick people** who came to Him. Their unbelief caused Jesus to wonder (cf. Mt 8:10). He left Nazareth and traveled around the villages of Galilee teaching.

LESSON NUGGET – Jesus healed plenty of people who didn't have much faith. But their unbelief kept them from coming to Jesus to receive His help. How many people there in Nazareth could have been helped had they only come to Jesus? Just like today, so many people are in misery and could be delivered by God, but they just won't come.

Sources: *Moody Bible Commentary; Wiersbe Bible Commentary; The Word for Today Bible and Standard Sunday School lesson.*