



# **JESUS: The Servant of God**

A verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of Mark

## **The Gospel and Unbelief**

**Mark 6:1-13**

**Message #15**

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**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The Gospel and Unbelief

*Mark 6:1-13*

## Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Mark 6**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Mark – **JESUS: The Servant of God**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

## Teaching

- **The Gospel and Unbelief**
- One of the ways we describe Christ-followers is as people of faith.
- Everyone has faith, believers and unbelievers.
- Faith is what we believe to be true.
- Faith determines what we think, say, and do.
- Faith is what motivates blue-haired, wild-eyed, liberal to stand and scream in the face of ICE officers as they enforce federal law.
- They believe that what ICE is doing is wrong and they believe they are right to interfere with them.
- Radical Islamists are motivated by their faith to kill people who will not convert to Islam.
- Horrible things are done every day in the name of some faith or another.
- So, when we say Christians have faith, we need to understand what we mean.
- In today's text we are going to look at the problem of having the wrong kind of faith.
- In the recent studies in Mark, Jesus has been manifesting the power of God over danger, demons, disease, and death.
- John's gospel tells us that Jesus performed so many miracles that they couldn't keep track of them.
- Those miracles proved Jesus was who He said He was, the Messiah, the Savior of the world.
- Everywhere Jesus went, multitudes thronged Him for a miracle.
- Today's text tells us that that not everyone was impressed by Jesus.

- **Mark 6:1**

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but He grew up and lived in Nazareth most of His life.

- **Mark 6:2-3**

- Jesus spent most of the first thirty years of His life in Nazareth.
- This was not a great metropolis – everyone knew Him and His family.
- He learned to be a carpenter from Joseph, the man who raised Him.
- He went away and was baptized by John the Baptist and then started His public ministry empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the kingdom of God.
- The miracles confirmed that His message was from God.
- The people of Nazareth are remembering the Jesus before He was baptized.
- Now Jesus comes back and is teaching with the wisdom of God and manifesting the miraculous power of God.
- They were offended that the carpenter was doing that.
- Publius, who lived about the time Christ was born is credited to have said, familiarity breeds contempt.
- They didn't understand how it was possible that it was Jesus, the Carpenter, who was doing this. **Kenneth Wuest**

**They could not explain Him, so they rejected Him.**

- The things of our faith do not need to be understood but they must be known, accepted, and believed.
- Jesus wasn't surprised by them being offended at Him.

- **Mark 6:4**

- It is the result of their unbelief that we should focus on.

- **Mark 6:5**

- In verse two the people acknowledged Jesus could do mighty works, but here it says He could not do mighty works.
- What happened? Did Jesus stop being the Son of God?
- Absolutely not!
- Jesus was able to do mighty works, but He was unwilling to because of their unbelief. **R. Kent Hughes**

**Omnipotence is not omnipotence if it is bound by anything but its own will.**

- There is something truly tragic about this verse.

- Jesus laid His hands on a few sick people.
- How many people needed a touch from Jesus but because they were offended by Him, they refused to seek Him out?
- The people all had the same things the people of Capernaum had.
- They chose to be offended and reject Jesus as the Messiah, as the Son of God.
- Faith is the conduit through which the power of God flows.
- The people of Nazareth chose unbelief and missed a touch from their Savior.
- Unbelief brought death into the world when Eve chose to believe the serpent and not God.
- The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years because they chose not to believe God and trusted the report of the unfaithful spies.
- Unbelief will rob us of the miraculous power of God where we need it in our lives.
- Unbelief will keep us away from the good God wants to give us.
- Jesus responds to their unbelief.
- **Mark 6:6**
- The people of Nazareth should have believed. **Warren Wiersbe**  
The contempt shown by the Nazarenes said nothing about Jesus Christ, but it said a great deal about them.
- Everything Jesus said and did proved He was who He said He was.
- Their disbelief was a result of their unwillingness to believe.
- And because they were unwilling to believe, Jesus was unwilling to do many mighty works among them.
- So, rather than hanging around people who were unwilling to believe Jesus went and preached in other towns.
- And then He did something to cause the message to spread faster.
- **Mark 6:7**
- Jesus chose twelve men to be his apostles.
- Apostle means one who is sent.
- A modern equivalent is the missionary.
- Jesus chose twelve men to be his apostles.
- One of them, Judas Iscariot would be infamous for betraying Jesus.
- Jesus knew Judas would betray Him when He chose him.

- Then why did Jesus choose Judas?
- Because someone had to betray Jesus, even after three years of teaching, miracles, and first-hand experience of the love of God in human form.
- Judas was chosen because he would betray Jesus.
- Here, he and the other eleven are sent out, two by two.
- They are given power to cast out demons, and according to Matthew and Luke's account, they were also given power to heal sickness.
- Not only did Judas witness the power of God through Jesus, now he is manifesting it himself.
- Then Jesus tells them something interesting.
- **Mark 6:8-10**
- Why would Jesus do that, tell them to take nothing with them?
- It goes against logic and normal ways of doing things.
- If you are going to go do what God told you to do, you would want to take along everything you need to do it.
- Instead, Jesus tells them to take nothing extra.
- Jesus is telling them to trust God with everything. **Proverbs 3:5-6**  
<sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup>in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.
- Can God be trusted? How much can we trust Him? With what can we trust Him?
- That is what Jesus is telling the apostles to do, to trust Him completely.
- Jesus told them what He wanted them to do and spiritually equipped them to do it.
- Then, He deliberately did not provide them what human logic said they would need.
- This was a test of their faith and meant to grow their faith.
- They would have everything they needed provided by God as they were walking in faith, not before they started walking.
- Jesus then warns them not to expect different results than what He got.
- **Mark 6:11-13**
- The people who heard the Twelve had the same opportunity to believe as those who heard Christ.

- If someone hears the gospel, they can believe, but only if they are willing.
- God will make them able to believe, but they must make the choice to believe. **Philippians 2:12-13**

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

- God does the heavy lifting, but He won't save someone against their will.
- If someone doesn't believe, it is not because they didn't hear the right gospel presentation, or because you weren't convincing enough, it is because they are unwilling to believe.
- The phrase 'shake off the dust under your feet' means declare them as unfit for the kingdom of God.
- What does this mean for us as Christ-followers.
- I started this message by saying everyone has faith, but not all faith is right.
- Who decides what faith is right? Do you decide what faith is? Is it me? Is it CCFV?
- No, the obvious answer is God decides what faith is.
- So, the beginning of faith is God. **Hebrews 11:6**

<sup>6</sup>But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that *He is*, and *that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*.

- When we are talking about faith, we mean faith in God and His Word.
- For faith to be right, the faith God approves of, it must be in alignment with what God's Word says. **Psalms 119:160**

<sup>160</sup>The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

- Faith is knowing God and His Word.
- Jesus also referred to the role of the Holy Spirit in faith and included a requirement for belief in Jesus. **John 16:8-9**

<sup>8</sup>And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: <sup>9</sup>of sin, because they do not believe in Me...

- Faith that is real is in God and His Word, yielded to the Holy Spirit and trusting in Jesus.
- Everyone alive has faith in something or someone.

- Only those who trust in Jesus has a faith that pleases God.
- The people of Nazareth had faith, it just wasn't the right faith.
- They believed in something, but it wasn't Jesus.
- If you are a Christian, you have a faith that is right.
- But your faith is not perfect – neither is mine, no one's is!
- Here is the connection to our text for today.
- Jesus could not do many mighty works in Nazareth because of their unbelief.
- The imperfections in your faith may be hindering the mighty works God might want to do your life or that you need God to do in your life.
- Think about this – the people of Nazareth didn't expect Jesus to do mighty works, even though the text makes it clear that if they had believed more mighty works would have been done.
- We don't have time to explore this completely so we will look at just one thing.
- Does God want us to know Him?
- Yes! That is why He gave us the Bible – so we can know Him and understand His plan for the world.
- If God wants us to know Him and He gave us the Bible so we can do that, what does He want us to do with the Bible.
- He wants us to read it, study it, memorize it, understand it, believe it, and share it with others.
- Faith is knowing what is true and letting that truth determine our thoughts, words, and deeds.
- If not walking in faith might hinder the mighty works of God in my life, I want to know that and adjust my life.
- If I hear God wants me to read the Bible, study it, memorize it, understand it, believe it, and share it with others, I should be willing to do that.
- I don't know about you, but I want God to do mighty works in and around my life.
- I think you do too! Let's walk in faith together.
- **Pray – Last Song**