

# Tri-State Community Church

[www.tri-statecommunitychurch.org](http://www.tri-statecommunitychurch.org)



*Gathering a family who loves and serves God through  
Jesus Christ and leads others in kind.*

A Bible Study in Mark  
*Jesus, Amazed by Stubborn Unbelief*

© 2009 -> *Pastor Rick Anderson*

Mark 6:1-6

Pastor Rick Anderson

[tristatecommunitychurch@yahoo.com](mailto:tristatecommunitychurch@yahoo.com)

*Mark 6:1-6<sup>1</sup>*  
Jesus, Amazed by Stubborn Unbelief

Verse one tells us that Jesus *came to His hometown, and His disciples followed Him.*

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but He was raised in the little town of Nazareth. Sometime earlier, Jesus had left Nazareth to pursue His ministry. While visiting His hometown, *on the Sabbath He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were astonished (vs. 2).*

You know when you are in the presence of a great teacher—someone who has a thorough knowledge and mastery of their subject. Imagine hearing from the one who created the world! Imagine hearing from the one whom all laws of physics answer!

Those who heard Jesus teach were *saying, “Where did this man get these things?” “What is the wisdom given to Him?” “How are such mighty works done by His hands” (vs. 2)?* The Greek word which we translate by the English word marvel or amaze means to be amazed nearly to the point of being overwhelmed. The people of Nazareth were so amazed at Jesus’ abilities that they were nearly overwhelmed.

In the short period of time since Jesus had left Nazareth He had gathered the twelve disciples, gained an enormous reputation for doing miraculous healings, taught like one who had authority, and attracted enormous crowds.

But before it is all over notice how the people react to Jesus’ great teaching, wisdom, and miraculous gifts. They said, *“Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” And they took offense at Him (vs. 3).*

In spite of Jesus’ awesome teaching, wisdom, and wondrous works, the people treated Him with contempt. Notice the irrationality of their choice. On the one hand Jesus performed miracles—no one denies this. Jesus teaches with wisdom that is unparalleled—no one denies this. Jesus has attracted a huge following who witnessed these things—no one denies this. Yet in spite of all the evidence,

Jesus is rejected for the simple reason that He grew up humbly in Nazareth.

Because Jesus was a *carpenter* He is to be written off. Because Jesus was the son of Mary, a resident of Nazareth, He is to be written off. Because He was the half brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon, residents of Nazareth, He is to be written off. Because Jesus had half sisters who dwelt in Nazareth He is to be written off.

How about you my friend, are you writing Jesus off? If you are I fully understand—I know how powerful doubts can be. If you are having doubts I would encourage you to

---

<sup>1</sup> Unless indicated otherwise, all Scripture quotations are taken from the English Standard Version.

take inventory of them. Are they sound? Rooted in the facts? Have you investigated your objections? What do you know about Jesus? Does your understanding of Jesus square with how He is revealed in Scripture? Jesus said *“The truth will set you free”* (John 8:32). Contact us if you need any help—chances are good we have wrestled with many of the same issues.

Regardless of where we are, the fact still remains that Jesus had exorcised demons from people, cleansed lepers, gave mobility to a paralytic, healed a man with a withered hand, healed a woman of an incurable disease, and raised a little girl from the dead (see Mark chapters 1-5)! The people of Nazareth do not deny that Jesus did these great things.

Jesus responded to His hometown saying *“A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household”* (vs. 4).

The phrase Jesus uses, *“A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown”*, was a common proverb in the first century that was very similar to our proverb “familiarity breeds contempt.”

I grew up in Hookstown which is a part of the area in which I minister. Does the fact that I minister near my hometown hinder my ministry?

In some cases it probably does. Hookstown is a small town and there are many who knew my dad when he was a little boy. There are many others who grew up with me and are very acquainted with the lifestyle I led before I came to saving faith in Jesus. It is probably for this reason that God often, but not always, moves his ministers away from their hometowns.

Before we reach premature conclusions, look at verse six: *And [Jesus] marveled because of their unbelief.*

There are only two instances in all of Scripture where Jesus marvels. Both cases involve faith. Jesus marveled at the extraordinary faith of a Centurion (Luke 7:9) and He marvels at the extraordinary lack of faith of those who hear Him in His hometown.

### Jesus is amazed at their stubborn unbelief

The evidence that He has been sent by God is so clear that Jesus stood amazed at the stubborn unbelief of those He grew up with.

Why did the people of Nazareth write off Jesus’ mighty works, teaching, and wisdom?

We will discuss that next time. Until then may God richly bless you.

**Permissions:** You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you do not alter the wording in any way and do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction. For web posting, a link to this document on our website is preferred. Any exceptions to the above must be approved by *Pastor Rick Anderson*.

**Please include the following statement on any distributed copy:** By Rick Anderson. © 2009 ->*Pastor Rick Anderson. Pastor Rick Anderson.* Website: [www.tri-statecommunitychurch.org](http://www.tri-statecommunitychurch.org)