

Tri-State Community Church

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

A Bible Study in Mark
The Reason For Stubborn Unbelief

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Mark 6:1-6

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Mark 6:1-6¹
Why Do We Write Off Jesus?

We ended last time with the question, why did the people of Nazareth write off Jesus' mighty works, teaching, and wisdom?

You will recall that Jesus and His disciples *came to His hometown* of Nazareth (vs. 1). *And on the Sabbath He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were astonished, 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 townspeople were amazed to the brink of being completely overwhelmed but soon began to reason: *Is not this 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.*

Jesus responded with a common proverb of the day, **"A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household" (vs. 4)**" This proverb was very much like our common phrase "familiarity breeds contempt."

In spite of all the miraculous things Jesus did, in spite of all the amazement they shared, the people of Nazareth wrote Jesus off.

Why?

Scripture offers a lot of light on this question. For this discussion let us go to the Gospel of John: *The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him (John 1:9-10).*

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him (John 1:10).

Here John describes rejection. This is the rejection of which the people of Nazareth exercise toward Jesus. Jesus is the light *which enlightens everyone*. He came into the world but the world rejected Him.

Why?

Jesus answers, **"And this is the judgement: the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).**

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

Many think that belief in Jesus is a philosophical issue. John 3:19 clearly shows that this is not the case. Believing in Jesus is a moral issue. Jesus sets forth the uncomfortable truth that men and women like us reject Jesus because our *deeds are evil*. Like the people of Nazareth, we love *darkness rather than the light*.

I would like to use myself as a classic example of the truth of this passage. Prior to giving my life to Jesus I believed I was ok with God. I realized that I was not perfect but who is? I thought that I was good enough because I was constantly comparing myself to other people. In the end, we will not be compared to other people; we will be examined by God's perfect standard. In the light of God's perfect standard I am evil.

I once read a story where Billy Graham was asked to do an interview. The interviewers wanted to do their film documentary in the Graham's home. Knowing the film crew would be in with their cameras and lights, Mr. and Mrs. Graham scrubbed their living room from one end to the other. They thought that they had really cleaned up the place until the film crew turned on the lights. Suddenly cobwebs and dust could be seen everywhere—to the point that the Grahams were embarrassed.

Most folks try to live a good life and by human standards many do. But when the light of the glory of Christ shines on us we shy away—in many cases unconsciously. The light of Jesus reveals the dust and cobwebs of our unrighteousness and this makes us uncomfortable just like it made His hometown uncomfortable.

But the good news is Jesus did not come to destroy us, He came to secure salvation for us. Jesus came to take the dust and cobwebs of our life upon Himself and give us His perfect righteousness that can stand in unapproachable light. Look at John 1:12:

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

The fact of the matter is, left to our own devices, we do not believe that being a servant of Jesus is really where our greatest happiness, joy, and fulfillment will be found. This is why we seek these things elsewhere and shy away from Jesus—just like His hometown. The problem is that only Jesus can truly satisfy our souls. The Gospel is calling us to turn from the darkness to the light and trust our souls to Christ. May we heed this Gospel call and receive Jesus in faith.

See you next time.

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