

# SERMON NOTES

**Preacher:** Kevin Hardy

**Date:** September 22, 2024

**Text:** Mark 6:1-6

**Title:** Overcoming Unbelief

**Big Idea:** Make a decision about Jesus.



## I. THE OFFENSE OF JESUS (vv. 1-3)

Mark doesn't name it here but this hometown is Nazareth – where Jesus was raised, where He grew up, where people would've known Him. Nazareth is about twenty miles southwest of the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 2:23).

*And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished... (v. 2)*

Where others have been astonished at Jesus and chosen to believe in Him or follow Him – here in Nazareth there is the opposite reaction.

“To the people of Nazareth Jesus is the local boy, and they know no reason why he should have turned out to be any different from the rest of his family.” – R.T. France

*And they took offense at him. (v. 4)*

“This passage is saying to us that Jesus always, everywhere offends people and evokes visceral rejection and hostility. If you follow Jesus, you will too. That's the point.” – Timothy Keller

This is a turning point passage that challenges you to make a decision about Jesus.

## II. THE OPPORTUNITY TO BELIEVE (vv. 4-6)

Jesus is rejected at Nazareth. His hometown. His relatives. And even His own home.

“Thus, exposure to Jesus and the gospel is no guarantee of faith; indeed, apart from faith, exposure to the gospel inoculates as often as it enlivens.” – James Edwards

“Unbelief robs us of Jesus' power at work in us.” – Dave Griffith-Jones

*And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching. (v. 6)* ← Spurgeon called this “The Sad Wonder.”

Is that how it's going to be in our churches? Is this going to be the case where people who had the best opportunity to believe in him fail to believe?

The call is to: Make a decision about Jesus.

# APPLICATION QUESTIONS

*To be used for personal reflection and/or sermon-based small group discussion.*

[www.aplacetobelong.ca/LatestSermonResources](http://www.aplacetobelong.ca/LatestSermonResources)

## READ Mark 6:1-6

Is there anything that is difficult to understand in the text, or a question you would like to ask the writer of the passage or the Lord?

Where is Christ in this passage? How does this passage relate to the person, nature, character or work of Christ? Luke 24:44 says all of Scripture is about Christ. So, how does this passage help you see more of who Christ is, what He has done, or allows you to love Him more?

Have you ever tried to share the gospel with your family and/or closest friends, as did Jesus? (vv. 1-6) What was their response?

What does Jesus do to astonish/amaze His hometown? (v. 2) Describe the reaction of the people of Nazareth to Jesus' teaching ministry. Why do you think they reacted this way?

What prevented Jesus from doing more than a few miracles (6:5) in Nazareth? Why do you think that made such a difference?

What is Jesus astonished/amazed by? (v. 6)

“Even being around Jesus for 30-odd years and hearing his wisdom and teaching first-hand was no guarantee of faith. The people who had the most reasons to be insiders reveal themselves to be outsiders, refusing to accept Jesus’ message of the kingdom (see also Mark 3:31-35).

- How does this warn lifelong churchgoers against complacency?
- After all you’ve read and heard of Jesus, will you come to him in faith?”<sup>1</sup>

## PRAY

---

<sup>1</sup> Griffith-Jones, *Explore Mark*