

## THE WISDOM OF JESUS

Bible Background – MARK 6:1-6; 7:1-23

Printed Text – MARK 6:1-6

**6** Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown.

<sup>2</sup>The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, “Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?”

<sup>3</sup>Then they scoffed, “He’s just a carpenter, the son of Mary<sup>[a]</sup> and the brother of James, Joseph,<sup>[b]</sup> Judas, and Simon. And his sisters

live right here among us.” They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.

<sup>4</sup>Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family.”

<sup>5</sup>And because of their unbelief, he couldn’t do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them.

<sup>6</sup>And he was amazed at their unbelief.

-----New Living Translation

### Lesson Introduction

In the early chapters of Mark, we are shown that Jesus performed many miracles of healing, and had taught multitudes through the use of parables. Chapter Five tells of several miracles that Jesus performed in the Gerasene region. He healed the demoniac living among the tombs and tormented by a legion of evil spirits—sending the demons into a herd of two-thousand swine who immediately drowned themselves. He healed the woman with the issue of blood by merely touching the hem of his garment while holding to the faith that she would be healed. He raised Jairus’ 12-year-old daughter, astounding those who witnessed this miracle. Our lesson study begins upon Jesus’ return to Nazareth, where he grew up, and begins to teach in the synagogue in his own home town.

**Background:** Mark, the shortest of the Gospels, emphasizes Jesus’ actions more than His teachings, recording eighteen of His miracles, but only one major sermon and four parables. He does not present a biography of Jesus detailing his Jewish family history. In fact, Mark does not quote the Old Testament or reference Jewish culture extensively, leading scholars to believe that he wrote primarily so that Gentile Christians would know Jesus as the Son of Man and Savior-King who conquers everything from storms to demons to death.

-----*Precepts for Living*, the UMI Annual Commentary 2019-2020, p. 541

### A People Offended

**Mark 6:1-3:** After performing many miracles and teaching great truths and wisdom from the scriptures, Jesus and his disciples traveled about twenty miles and returned to Nazareth where his

family lived as well as others who had known him most of his earthly life. On the Sabbath, he attended the synagogue as usual, but this time, he began to teach the people with a great deal of authority and wisdom. These people had been familiar with him for many years and considered him no different than they. The people were amazed and began to wonder where he received all this wisdom as well as the power to perform miracles. After all, he was just a carpenter, from an ordinary family, no more special than their own, and from the same small, unremarkable village (Nazareth) they were from. They seemed amazed at his wisdom and offended that it came from one such as him.

They became hostile and increasingly derogatory and demeaning in their comments. “Isn’t this the son of Mary?” In Jewish culture, men are not usually described or identified as sons of their mother, even if their fathers were dead. Describing Jesus as the “son of Mary” was probably intended as a put-down, and perpetuates the rumor being circulated at that time that He was an illegitimate child because of the nature of His birth. The Greek verb that is translated as “offended” in this passage is *skandalizo*, from which we get the English word “scandalize.” So they were not just offended by his display of wisdom and authority but “scandalized.”

◆ *Have you ever encountered a situation where people most familiar with someone are the most unsupportive of that person?*

### **A Prophet Dishonored**

**Mark 6:4-6:** Jesus then told them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family.” Think of the miracles he performed prior to returning home. A woman had the faith that she would be healed if she could just touch the hem of his garment. A synagogue leader had faith that his daughter would be healed if Jesus touched her. A man with many demons worshiped him and even the demons recognized his authority. Yet, there was such a lack of faith among his own people that even Jesus was astonished.

He was able to lay hands on a few sick people and heal them, but Jesus “could there do no mighty work.” This statement does not contradict an Almighty God. He was not hindered from healing anyone who came to him by their unbelief. The Bible repeatedly states that He “healed them all” meaning “everyone” who came to him. But, their unbelief kept them away. It kept them from bringing their sick to the Anointed One to be healed. Thus, their unwillingness to accept him and receive wisdom and healing from Him made it their “stumbling block.” He was astonished at their disbelief but he went around the villages, teaching and seeking those who would believe. In this, He modeled what he told the disciples upon their commissioning, “If any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet, when you leave, as a testimony against them.” (Mark 6:11).

◆ *Why is it sometimes difficult to accept godly wisdom from people we know well?*

### **Conclusion**

Let us not judge the actions of the people in Jesus’ hometown too harshly. How could they be offended by Jesus to the point of rejection and refusing to go to him? Remember that sometimes we may have the tendency to do the same thing. When we read God’s Word, we can sometimes be offended by passages that

convict our hearts and reveal our sin. We may sometimes lash out at a pastor who preaches a convicting message. We may even resent a spouse or a friend who lovingly confronts or challenges us or holds us accountable for our actions. When this happens, we are the ones who suffer. Think of a passage or biblical message that offended you. Pray about why you felt the offense and if necessary, repent. If we stop praying or seeking Jesus, we neglect our relationship with him and our faith falters.

**Sources:**

*Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation, Carol Stream, Illinois.

Nickelson, R. L. (Ed.). (2019). Many Faces of Wisdom. *Standard Lesson Commentary*, 67 (Summer Quarter), 392-397. Standard Publishing, Colorado Springs, CO.

Ogbonnaya, A. O. (Ed.). (2019). Wisdom. *Precepts for Living*, 22(Summer Quarter), 538–546. The Urban Ministries, Inc. Annual Commentary 2019-2020.

**Lesson for Next Week – July 26, 2020 – Study Guide 8**

**Wisdom: The Way, Truth, And Life**

Bible Background ♦ PROVERBS 3:17; 8:32-36; JOHN 14:1-14

Printed Text ♦ JOHN 14:1-14

Devotional Reading ♦ PROVERB 3:13-18