

## Amazing Faith Part 2 – 11.12.17

Faith that Amazed Jesus Series

In the Gospels, 32 times people are described as being amazed by Jesus, but only **two distinct times** when Jesus Himself was amazed. (see also **Luke 7:1-10**)

### Today's Passage: Mark 6:1-6

**Mark 6:1** (NIV) *Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples.*

- After doing amazing miraculous works and astonishing thousands of people, now Jesus decides to go to his hometown to the city of Nazareth, which is about 40 miles from Capernaum. (see **Mark 4:35-Mark 5:43**)
- Interestingly enough, we are not told much at all in Scripture about Jesus' life growing up, but we do know that He was born in Bethlehem, but was raised in Nazareth, east of the Sea of Galilee.
- We don't know why He wanted to go back, but much had changed since Jesus left Nazareth. He left by Himself as a carpenter and returned as a **famous rabbi** with a whole entourage of disciples.

**Mark 6:2** (NIV)<sup>2</sup> *When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.*

- On the Sabbath day, Jesus went to the Synagogue and began explaining the Scriptures in such a way that He amazed many of the listeners. The Bible says that many who heard Him were amazed, but notice, **not all were amazed**.

**Mark 6:2-3** (NIV) *"Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?"<sup>3</sup> Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.*

- In their opinion, **Jesus did not have the proper CREDENTIALS to be preaching this way**. They were amazed at His words, his wisdom and the wonders he performed, but **WHO HE WAS** offended them.
- **They didn't have a problem with the message, but they had a problem with the MESSENGER.**
- Because **THEY THOUGHT** they knew who He was, this became a **STUMBLING BLOCK** to their belief. **So they mocked Him.**
- **Be careful when you start to COMPARE yourself to others because it's easier to tear others down instead of building them up.**

Let's look at the words that they threw at Him:

**Isn't this the carpenter?** This was a way of pointing out that Jesus had no formal theological training.

- **God can turn your life into a masterpiece if you let Him CUT and SHAPE!** (see **Ephesians 2:10**)

**Isn't this the son of Mary?** This was far from a compliment. It was contrary to Jewish custom to describe a man as the son of his mother.

- **People may use things from your PAST to haunt you TODAY, but know God is more concerned with your FUTURE.**

**"and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?"**

Basically, **here with us** means that they rest of your family didn't leave and come back with an entourage!

- They knew a bunch of facts about Him, but they didn't know Him personally.
- **Until you truly trust the Lord with your life, you will never know the MASTERPIECE you can be.**

**Mark 6:4** (NIV) Jesus said, *"Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor."*

- Remember, Jesus had just gone through Galilee and was honored everywhere He went, but not in Nazareth.
- **Try not to take criticism personal and MOVE on.**
- Jesus accepted **REJECTION** as a price a faithful prophet must pay, even if it is by family and friends. (see **Luke 9:23**).

**Mark 6:5-6** (NIV)<sup>5</sup> *He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.<sup>6</sup> He was amazed at their lack of faith.*

- **Their lack of FAITH made them miss out on all that Jesus could do for them.**
- **As long as we fail to be amazed by Jesus, Jesus is amazed by us for all the WRONG reasons.**

**Mark 6:6** (NIV) *Then Jesus went from village to village, teaching the people."*

- **Don't be concerned about what other people are saying about you, only be concerned with what God is TELLING you to do!** He went on with his life and his mission.
- **And, right after this rejection, I'm sure Jesus used this example to challenge his disciples before He sent them out.** (see **Mark 6:7-13**)
- Jesus showed His disciples right before He sent them out that **MINISTRY** will not be easy, but it's worth it.

**Four quick points to ponder this week:**

**#1 If you will fulfill the Great Commission and you will AMAZE Jesus.**

**#2 Don't be bothered if someone doesn't believe in you because GOD believes in you and that's all that matters!**

**#3 If you have been hurt by others in the past, it's time to MOVE on.**

**#4 REJOICE in the fact that God will never reject you and that He has great things in store for each of us.**

God doesn't want **PROFESSIONAL** Christians who have a head knowledge of Christianity, but God wants **FAITHFUL** Christians that will take what they've learned and impact the world around them for Christ.