

Point of View Matters

Mark 6:1-6

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Today—Goodbye luncheon for Pat and Sophie
2. May 31st — Women's Coffee Talk in FH @ 3pm
3. June 1st — Bible Study starting on Olivet Discourse (Matt 24)
4. June 7th — Lamont and Shannon, missionaries to Papa New Guinea, share what God has been doing and what God is currently doing
5. Memorial Day, celebration our fallen heroes

Offering will be in the back

Prayer time will be praying for those in the government and testimonies of how you have seen God active in your life

INTRO

Our point of view matters. The preconceived ideas, the mindset we come to a situation with will have an effect upon how we see the situation, how we act or respond in the situation, and how we view that situation that happened in the past...these all matter.

When we come with expectations, often those expectations are tied to something we want or what we are used to. They often are rooted in a selfish desire. This more often than not is true in our faith.

Often times in our faith, we come with a mind-set of expectations. Maybe it's comfort. Maybe it's God is going to make my life go easy. Maybe it's the mind-set that "when I do good things, God loves me. When I do bad things, God hates me." In scripture, there is a concept of you 'reaping what you sow.' It isn't a matter of God liking you or hating you. It is cause and effect. You do wrong, there is consequence. God can still love you in and through your consequence.

We come to our faith, we often come with a mind-set, expectations, and how we read scripture, and how we think church should be done through the lens of what we experienced as kids, how it was done before us, what we like or dislike, the culture we are raised in, and more. The longer we

have been in our faith, the more comfortable we become in those traditions and culture. Western and Eastern cultures look through different point of view.

Often times our pride gets in the way. It is a matter of wanting honor and respect and to feel like we have an edge on that other person. We do this with God. When we choose to ignore or disobey the word of God, we are acting in pride, in moral rebellion. We elevate ourselves to the place of honor, and bring God down from a place of honor, and aim to equate Him with the creation, or even with our shame.

Mark 6:1-6

Verse 1

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

1. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, taken to Egypt for a period of time, and then His family moved to Nazareth, where He grew up. Nazareth was a small town. No one of importance came from Nazareth.
2. Maybe this is the visit in response to Mark 3:21, His family comes to get him because they thought He was out of His mind.

Verse 2-3a

The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

1. Jesus went to the synagogues on the Sabbath and He would often teach. (Luke 4:15)
 1. They were amazed. Often, those that heard Him were amazed because He spoke as
one with authority. (Mark 1:27; Luke 4:32)
Luke 4:16-30
 1. Some scholars believe this is the same trip, some think it is not
 2. But what is important is what happens:
 - a. Reads from scroll of Isaiah 61:1-2
 - b. He claims that it was fulfilled in Him (Luke 4:15)
 - c. The people take him out of to a cliff to push Him off
 - d. The Israelites got mad because Jesus claimed that God chose the Gentiles
over the Jews
 - e. Also, that the people of His hometown were as unbelieving as the Jewish

people during Elijah and Elisha's time.

Listen to the disregard and disbelief, really the denial within them. They had him already defined in their minds of what they could expect of Him. *They asked, "Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?" Then they scoffed, "He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us."*

1. He was one of them. How could he be someone of great importance?
 1. Sometimes we can become so familiar in being Christians that we begin to lose our first love. Revelations 2:1-7, the Church of Smyrna was praised, but the angel of the Lord said they left their first love.
2. They wanted to know *WHERE* did He get all his wisdom and *WHERE* did get the power to do miracles?
 1. It was either God or Satan.
3. Jesus was ordinary. He came from the same town they came from.
 1. Not a town of nobility, and yet he came home with disciples
 2. Being a carpenter was an everyday job
 3. He is like them...he has a family, and they know his family
4. This shows their acknowledgment of what He has said and done. The people of Nazareth most likely heard about all Jesus had been doing.
 1. They were faced with a decision...Is He who is claims to be, or is he a fraud?
 1. Is He liar? Lunatic? or Lord?
 1. Jesus was human.
 1. He was a child (Luke 2:52)
 2. He had a family (Mark 6:3)
 3. He had emotions (John 11:35)
 4. He learned (Luke 2:52)
 5. He had a job (Mark 6:3)
 6. He had limitations (Luke 23:46)
 7. He was tempted (Mark 1:13)
 8. He ate/hungered (Matt 4:2)
 9. He got thirsty (John 19:28)
 - 10.He got tired (Joh 4:6)
 - 11.He slept (Mark 4:38)
 - 12.He bled (Romans 3:25)
 2. He was God
 1. Sinless (2 Cor 5:21; Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 1:19, 22)
 2. Claims to be God (John 8:58)

3. He was Creator (Colossians 1:16)
 4. Forgives sin; only God can forgive sin (Isaiah 43:25; Luke 5:20)
 5. Received worship only reserved for God (Matt 28:9)
 6. Claimed to be Son of God (Luke 22:70)
 7. Others say that He claimed to be God (John 10:33)
 8. He raised Himself from the dead (John 2:19; 10:17-18)
5. It's peculiar that Mark records 'son of Mary'.
1. Some scholars say that Joseph, his earthy father had probably already died, however, Jewish custom would be to still mention the father. There are instances, however, in the OT when it was mentioned "the three sons of Zeruah", who was David's sister.
 2. Some scholars say it was to speak of his illegitimacy because he was born out of wedlock. The aim would be to put shame upon Jesus as one who could not be the Messiah
 3. No matter the case, there seems to be an attempt to disrespect Jesus. To send a message of, "You're no better than us"

Verse 3

They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.

1. Even though the signs were there, they would not believe
2. They were deeply offended that He would claim to be something they thought He could not be.
3. Look at His beginnings...they would think, how could He be someone they should believe in
4. It wasn't who Jesus was that caused them to have unbelief, to ridicule and treat Jesus with contempt. It was because of who they were. He could not be any better than them.

Verse 4

Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family."

1. This was a common proverb
2. Jesus claimed to be a prophet
 1. To be a prophet was to claim one had honor, deserved honor. They lived in an honor/shame society
 1. Jesus, through his knowledge and wisdom, through his ability to do miracles challenged the people and their pride.
 2. This is from the Social Science of the Synoptic Gospels, "*honor was a limited good. If someone gained, someone else lost. To be*

*recognized as a 'prophet' in one's own town meant that honor due to other persons and other families was diminished. Claims to more than one's appointed (at birth) share of honor thus threatened others and would eventually trigger attempts to cut the claimant down to size."*¹ This was the issue at stake.

3. It was evident that the people of Nazareth could not, better said, really chose not to see him for what He really was
 1. Sometimes we do this to other believers. We remember who they were, and don't recognize and think of them as who God can make them to be. Sometimes we short change what God is doing. It's important for us to remember that God is in the business of changing people. And it's important to remember a person can change as long as they are a live.
 2. Sometimes we have family that can't see us as a person that has changed or is changing. Don't give up. Be faithful and obedient to God. Let the Spirit of God work in you and through you.
 3. 1 Cor 13 "Love keeps no record of wrongs. Love hopes all things, believes all things."

Verse 5

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.

1. It wasn't that Jesus couldn't work in their unbelief. We must remember that often Jesus works in coordination with our faith. Faith is critical to see the working of God. However, it isn't always essential to God working. We don't dictate if God works and how God works. He is God, we are creation.
 1. Unbelief in scripture is regarded as a mind-set, a stubborn refusal to believe, a moral rebellion, not merely a logical conclusion of evaluating evidence.
 1. The people of Nazareth were in unbelief
 2. Hebrews 3:19 says, "So they were not able to enter because of unbelief"
 1. the context is the Hebrew nation wandering in the desert for 40 years. It wasn't that God didn't want them to enter, He gave that bountiful land to them. It was their unbelief. But, listen to the previous verse.
 2. "And to whom was God speaking when He took an oath that they would never enter His rest? Wasn't it the people who **disobeyed** Him?

3. Disobedience is tied to unbelief. Disobedience come from the unbelief that Gods' ways are good enough. God's intentions are best.
2. Faith is not equated to how much we go to church, serve, or how good we look. Faith is choosing to put trust in God. There is evidence that points to reasons to believe.
 1. Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen
 2. Faith builds in hearing and reading God's Word and then working towards digesting it.
 3. Faith builds when we are obedient to the commands of God
 4. Faith builds as we
3. Romans 1:18-32
 1. This is where pride as creation seeks to have the honor of the Creator.
 2. We do this by making our own way, calling our own shots
4. Unbelief blinds us to the truth and robs us of hope.
 1. God is always at work. Sometimes it is in little ways. Sometimes in big ways. Sometimes it is in familiar ways that we don't even think about: the sun rising and setting, the rain comings and the grass turning green, the flowers blooming, the miracle of birth, God holding back His wrath and being gracious enough to wait till the right time to judge the world.

Verse 6

And he was amazed at their unbelief.

POINT

Our point of view matters when we come to Jesus. If we come with preconceived ideas, looking at Jesus through our culture, and through our experiences, and how we think He ought to be, then we will have a skewed pictures of Jesus. If we come with a humble heart that says He truly is the God-man, that He is the authority and absolute in authority, that He has the true picture of what is good for us, we will then be able to see a truer picture of who He is and we will trust that He will do great things through us.

Expectations are killers
Humility is important