

The Divine Stumbling Block

Pastor Nathan Carroll

Mark 6:1-6a NIV

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

“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? 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.

Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Where are we?

_____ *Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. (v1)*

What Happens?

1. The people _____ at Jesus.
(they asked) “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. (v3)
2. Jesus is _____.
He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. (v5)

Why Does this Happen?

Because Jesus was not _____.
Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor.” (v4)
He was considered _____.

THE KINGDOM IN ACTION

Key Point:

If we are not actively growing in the _____ (Colossians 1:10), then we are actively hurtling towards _____ by Him.

This is a principle factor in the cultivation or erosion of our _____.
He (Jesus) was amazed at their lack of faith. (v6)

Mark 6:6b-13 NIV

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Which road are you / your family on?

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, **growing in the knowledge of God...***

Colossians 1:9-10 NIV

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Mark 6:1-13

- 1) What from this Passage and Sunday's teaching stood out to you?
- 2) Have you ever found yourself in a circumstance where friends or family members have regarded you in a way that painted you as the person that they knew you to be in a past season of life? (and, in so doing, did not take the chance to get to know you as you are in the current season that you find yourself in?)
- 3) Spiritual Formation is always happening. Pastor Nathan's key point was that either we are actively growing in the knowledge of God or we are actively hurtling towards being offended by Him.
 - a) Have you or someone you know ever fallen prey to the lie that the current state of relationship with God is "good enough" and felt tempted to just "coast"? How do you interact with the idea that this idea of "coasting" in our relationship with Jesus might just be a myth?
 - b) What lifestyle practices or rhythms can help us to intentionally grow in our knowledge of who Jesus is? Do you have any such rhythms in place in your day-to-day?
 - c) Are there areas in your life where you think "I already know this about Jesus or the bible" and are closed to further dialogue or exploration?
- 4) Inevitably, truths from scripture or Jesus' teachings will, on occasion, baffle us or even outright offend us (just read John 6:25-69). We tend to react to such offence with an impulse to either withdraw *or* to press in, by faith, to understanding Jesus' heart in a greater way. What has been your experience with such intersections in your apprenticeship journey?

- 5) Read through the scripture passages listed below. How do they relate to Pastor Nathan's message on Mark 6 and what can we learn from them? Based on these truths how should we continually approach Jesus?

Matthew 5:3

2 Corinthians 2: 14

Ephesians 3:14-19

Proverbs 16:18

- 6) G.K. Chesterton said, "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting, it has been found difficult and left untried" Jesus is a polarizing person. Either we are engaging relationship with Him in humility and therefore being moved towards Him or we "think we know better" and in our pride we are being moved away from Him. There is no neutral ground. How does this statement relate to Pastor Nathan's teaching in regards to there being "no neutral ground" with Jesus.
- 7) In Mark 6:6b-13 we see the incredible life that is available to those who will seek to humbly grow in the knowledge of who Jesus is; a life of mission and miracles where Jesus is the centre of who we are and will become and what we do. How does this challenge and inspire you to continue to grow in your knowledge of who Jesus is?

Pray Colossians 1:9-10 for one another – out loud, by name. This is a prayer that Jesus is wanting to make 'yes' and 'amen' in our lives in an increasing way (we can have this confidence in praying any biblical prayer).