



*‘Now!’ Sermon Series*

Sermon #20

*‘Hated in His Hometown!’*

*Mark 6:1-6*

Sunday, September 8th, 2024

*Last week in ‘NOW’ sermon series:*

- Last week we found ourselves in a large passage of scripture, as we studied Mark 5:21-43.
  - *From this text, I preached a sermon entitled ‘Handling Divine Interruptions!’*, as we asked the question: *In what ways does Jesus show us HOW to handle Divine interruptions in our lives to help people who are in need of the power of Jesus?*
    - **Truth 1:** *Give Grace to those who Oppose You. (V. 21-24a)*
    - **Truth 2:** *Give Guaranteed Hope at Every Opportunity. (V. 24b-34)*

- **Truth 3:** *Give Genuine Care despite Confronting Opposition. (V. 35-43)*

- Based on last Sunday’s sermon, how are you allowing the interruptions in your life to ultimately be used by God?
  - Have you ‘accepted’ an interruption this week and God has used it for His Glory?

*‘Hated in His Hometown!’*

*Mark 6:1-6*

**Sermon in a Sentence:**

*Jesus returned to Nazareth and quickly found out that He was hated in His hometown when His hometown relationships blocked His ministry, Honor was non-existent in His hometown, and Hindrances to His ministry continued to happen in Nazareth.*

**Intro:**

- Many great scholars and theologians will look at our scripture text this morning and pull out the disbelief of those who came in contact with Christ.
  - *While I do believe that is a foundational concept of this doctrine, I can’t detach it from the fact that it was because Jesus had traveled some 25 miles to his hometown of Nazareth.*
- As Jesus will clearly state in our text this morning ‘A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown’
  - *Some translations state, ‘the prophet shall be hated in his hometown’.*

- *This morning's text really shows us that those who serve in Pastoral ministry, will be hated in their hometown.*
    - *This is why I hold the personal belief, based on this text and Luke 4:24 and John 4:44, that Pastors ought not to serve in their hometown Churches.*
      - Now, among my Pastor friends and those in the ministry, this is highly debated and disputed, but based on how Jesus' own ministry was treated in His hometown of Jerusalem, I believe it's very clear.
    - *In order for a Man of God (Pastor) to have the most effective ministry that God intends for Him to have, then he ought not to Pastor in his hometown.*
      - While this is debatable and many disagree, that's fine.
    - *One thing you can't argue is that Jesus Himself was hated in His hometown of Nazareth which prohibited His ministry from being as effective as it was elsewhere.*
      - As we look at this text this morning, we see that those whom Jesus had known and loved, (who we would naturally think would support Him the most), clearly, did not do so...
- \*Read Mark 6:1-6\**

**Question to Ask:**

*How is Jesus hated in His hometown of Nazareth, and how does that show us that Pastors today ought not to serve in their own 'home' towns and communities?*

**Truth 1: *Hometown Relationships can Block Your Ministry. (V. 1-3)***

- Notice here that the truth I have drawn out of verses 1-3, is 'Hometown Relationships 'can' Block Your Ministry, not that they will.
  - *There are those that God does choose to call to serve in their hometowns, but for the majority, I don't find that to be the case.*
    - *I know many great Pastors who God has called and they have served Churches in their 'hometown' and God has blessed.*
  - *I'm not saying that it's not possible, I'm simply saying that it's more likely for God to call a man out of his hometown to serve elsewhere.*
    - There are many roadblocks that you can find in ministering in your home town.
    - Mainly the same reasons that we find in this text.
  - *People will remember you for who you were before you began your ministry.*
  - *People will know you because of who your relatives are (or are not), and automatically put expectations and have thoughts about you.*

- *People may expect special treatment because you've known them for a certain amount of years.*
  - Jesus considered Nazareth His hometown.
  - **Once He was born in Bethlehem, he and his parents escaped to Egypt because Herod was trying to find and kill Jesus.**
- Jesus' parents settled in a tiny Jewish town, and the inhabitants of Nazareth at that time would have been 200-300 in population size.
  - *So, it was a small town where everyone knew who Jesus was and they knew his parents.*
- **And when Jesus began His ministry, He did so 25 miles away in Capernaum, where he would have greater access to Galilee geographically.**
  - Basing His ministry out of Capernaum allowed Him to have more access to ships and to travel faster.
    - *At this point in Jesus ministry, He had visited most of the region, and I'm sure he wanted to visit His family (even though they didn't want to have much to do with Him as Mark had previously told us)*
- Once Jesus arrives home to Nazareth to keep spreading the Gospel, He ran into three specific things...
  - **Our Expectations of Home. (V. 1)**
    - 'He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.'
    - Jesus takes His disciples with Him and heads to His earthly 'Home'.
      - **For those of you here today who are like me, when I think of home, I have expectations.**
        - Expectations of seeing friends and family and even with the expectation of them being excited to see me and vice versa.
- **Earlier in Mark's Gospel, in Mark 3:21 and Mark 3:31-35, we find tensions between Jesus and His family members.**
  - 'And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind." Mark 3:21
  - 'And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. **32** And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers[a] are outside, seeking you." **33** And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" **34** And looking about

at those who sat around him, he said,  
“Here are my mother and my brothers!  
35 For whoever does the will of God, he  
is my brother and sister and mother.”  
Mark 3:31-35

- **Jesus knows His family (that He spent 30 years with), will not accept Him.**
  - But it doesn't change the fact that it can be difficult.
  - **Which is why, in Rabbi like fashion, the disciples came with Him to do ministry in His hometown.**
    - Our expectations can be high, and our experiences can be difficult...
- **Our Experiences at Home. (V. 2)**
  - ‘And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands?”
  - **This isn't the same 'Jesus' that the residents of Nazareth remember running around and growing up as a little boy.**
    - **When the Sabbath day comes, Jesus teaches in the Synagogue.**
      - **Scholar James Edwards said '(the synagogue) was the heart of the Jewish community.'**
- Jesus' family had been violent before, which is interesting that He is ‘allowed’ or ‘permitted’ to teach in the synagogue on that sabbath day.
  - **The people in Nazareth would have undoubtedly heard that after leaving His home, He had performed miracles and attracted quite a following.**
- Based on Mark's Gospel alone, there are 10 miracles that Jesus had performed at this point:
  - 1. Peter's mother-in-law. (1:29-31)
  - 2. Many more in Capernaum. (1:32-34)
  - 3. A leper. (1:40-45)
  - 4. A paralyzed man. (2:1-12)
  - 5. A man with a deformed hand. (3:1-6)
  - 6. Many other healings. (3:7-12)
  - 7. The Storm and Sea. (4:35-41)
  - 8. The Gerasene Demoniac. (5:1-20)
  - 9. The Woman who bled for 12 years. (5:25-34)
  - 10. Jairus' daughter who died (5:35-43)
- **The experience/treatment that He gets when He comes home is not because they deny all the miracles Christ has done, it's because they can't believe it's the same person that they saw grow up.**
  - **This is why it's a huge roadblock (not an impossibility), for someone to Pastor in their hometown.**

- ***People can't reconcile in their mind that the same child they once knew, is greatly being used by God in some way.***
- Dr. Daniel Aiken made a good point of the comments that were being made in the synagogue when he said 'It is as if they are saying, 'This is the Christ? This One we have known all our lives is the Son of God? Are you kidding? We may not be able to explain His miracles, but we know who He is. He is nothing and a nobody; of that we are certain.'
  - ***The questions that come out of people's mouths in the synagogue that day reveal the unbelief in their hearts.***
- While Jesus was God, He was also human, so we can't forget that He had feelings too.
  - ***Surely these comments caused Him to have quite the experience when He came home.***
- The expectations, and experiences were blocks to His ministry when He came home, but also, we see the environment He had in His own Home wasn't supportive of His ministry.
- ***The Environment at Home. (V. 3)***
  - 'Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offense at him.'
- ***Essentially what I get from what Mark is explaining from the environment that Jesus was in when He went home to Nazareth, was that Jesus was just a common man who had come from among them, and that He didn't have the resume or pedigree to do the things they said He was doing.***
  - ***What this boils down to, is often in our hometown's, we have a hard time as selfish human beings seeing someone better off than we are.***
    - The root of it, is that we don't want to see someone succeed and 'do better than us'.
- So, the people continue to insult that day as Jesus is teaching in the synagogue.
- ***There are several things they say to Him and in the synagogue that show us the environment that Jesus was in:***
  - 'Isn't this the carpenter?'
  - ***The community Jesus grew up in just views Him as a commoner. A regular Joe. This is the King of Kings!***
  - ***\*Word Study\****
    - The word carpenter here comes from the greek word '**Tekton**' τέκτων which only occurs twice in the NT (Matthew 13:55), this

greek word literally means to produce with your hands.

■ ***The use of this word is interesting because they can't imagine that the hands of a man that worked with wood, could do the things He was capable of.***

- Their ability to believe in Jesus is being blocked by His vocation.

■ ***'The son of Mary'***

- Now, this phrase is interesting and causes much debate and discussion in the academic world.
- *It's possible that this is just a way of the people saying that Joseph had died (which he believed he had at this point).*
- ***It's also possibly a cheap shot at the scandal of His brother.***
  - Trust me, the townspeople of Nazareth are a lot like you and I. They don't quickly forget juicy gossip and scandals.
- *If they leave out Joseph, they are taunting Jesus expressing they believe He was born an illegitimate child and they don't know who is father is.*

● ***Little do they know, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit.'***

■ ***'brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon'***

- Notice in this phrase his brothers (James aka Jacob) and Joseph were named after Hebrew patriarchs.
- Judah and Simon were named for major jewish revolutionaries.

■ ***So, Jesus' family named their children after the redeemers of Israel in days gone by, without realizing the one who came to save was right in front of them.***

- What a sorry excuse not to believe.

■ What silly things are blocking your ability to believe in Jesus today.

**Truth 2: *Honor is Non-Existent in Your Hometown. (V. 4)***

- 'And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." Mark 6:4
- ***Jesus is not the first one to state that the prophet/preacher will be hated in His hometown. We find this in 2 Chronicles 36:16 and Jeremiah 11:21. (But, Jesus did make this phrase famous)***
  - ***But Jesus quoted a proverb where that was a very common phrase in the Jewish and Greco-Roman contexts of the time.***

- *This was found in a variety of Jewish literature as well as pagan literature, so the words Jesus says here in verse 4, are words the audience would have known and understood.*

- I believe that many preachers of today would benefit greatly, if they too, would heed the proverb/saying that Jesus quotes here.

- *They would save themselves from a lot of heartache that could potentially be avoided.*

- What Jesus found here in Nazareth that day, is that the very people that knew Him, could not explain Him, so they just decided to reject Him.

- *\*Illustration\**

- I can totally relate to this. With no respect towards my hometown and where I came from, I had struggles growing up after I was called and even when I return 'home', because people can't explain what God is doing in my life, there's not formula or answer, so that reject me.

- *In all reality, they aren't rejecting me, but Christ in me.*

- 'If the world hates you, know that it has hated me

before it hated you.' John 15:18

- *For me personally, I never found so much love and support of me and my ministry until I left the upstate and came here. I think it has a lot to do with Mark 6:4.*

- *For those in ministry this is a hard concept to learn and digest, but our Lord Jesus does it here.*

- He finds no honor in Nazareth.

- Dr. Daniel Aiken describes this well when he said *'Aligning Himself (Jesus) with the prophetic tradition, He acknowledges with a broken heart His rejection by those who knew Him best, those you would have expected would stand with Him no matter what anyone else said or did.'*

- There are three things I think we can pull from the text...

- *A Preacher will not be accepted among his friends. (V. 4a)*

- 'A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown'
- *If you feel called to preach, you must get used to not having many friends or, having people you thought were your friends, no longer be by your side.*
- *\*Word Study\**

- The English word ‘Honor’ comes from the Greek word **‘Atimos’ ἄτιμος** which literally means unhonored and despised.
            - This word only occurs **4** times in the Greek NT. Matthew uses it in Matthew 13:57, where He cites these same words of Jesus.
            - Paul uses this word twice in his letter to the Church at Corinth.
  - *Of course, Jesus did have friends (the disciples), but even one of them would betray Him.*
    - **When you serve in ministry long enough, you will have people betray you and leave you.**
    - *I’m sure Jesus had buddies in Nazareth that no longer wanted to have anything to do with Him.*
  - Notice in verse 4, the circle Jesus had gets smaller and smaller.
    - **The longer and more dedicated you become in serving Jesus in ministry (whether vocational or not), the more you will see your circle get smaller.**
- *A Preacher will not be accepted among his relatives. (V. 4b)*
  - ‘and among his relatives’
- John 7:5 is clear, that Jesus’ own brothers didn’t believe in him during His ministry on earth.
  - ‘For not even his brothers believed in him.’ John 7:5
- **It wouldn’t be until James and Jude come to faith in Jesus at His death burial and resurrection that they become believers and, NT writers.**
  - But, these are the only siblings we know of that come to know Jesus as who He really was, Savior...
- *Mark’s word choice in the Greek text of ‘relatives’ and ‘house’ give the indication that Jesus’ family joined in with the neighbors of their rejection.*
  - Jesus’ relatives would rather be in good standing in the community, than in right standing with God in the flesh who was right before them.
    - **And we do the same thing, though it may not be God in the flesh in front of us, but the Spirit of God in us.**
- *A Preacher will not be accepted among his immediate family. (V. 4c)*
  - ‘and in his own household.’
  - While this is not always the case to all preachers (it is with some certainly),



- **Obviously those who grew up in the same household as Jesus, got it wrong with who He was.**
  - Jesus' family is a great example that just because you've been exposed to Jesus and who He is, does not mean that you know Him as your Lord and Savior!
- **While your family may not accept what you have to say about Jesus, it is still your responsibility to share the news with them...**
  - We see that Jesus was hated in His hometown with the hometown relationships that can block your ministry, honor being non-existent, and thirdly and finally...

**Truth 3: *Hindrances to the Ministry can Occur in Your Hometown. (V. 5-6)***

- **Based on these verses, I believe Jesus faced more hindrances to His ministry than He did in Galilee, simply because He was from Nazareth and people were there that knew Him before He began His ministry.**
  - Hindrances to ministry can be attributed to the unbelief of others that God really can do great things.
  - 'And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And he marveled because of

their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.' Mark 6:5-6

- **When people focus on the world and standards of the world, it can truly hinder God's Work.**
  - **It's not that God can't do miracles when and how He wants, but Jesus shows us here in verse 5 and 6 that why would God do such things in obvious unbelief.**
- **There's no limit to what God can do when God's people show unlimited Faith in Him.**
  - But in Nazareth, this doesn't happen, so Jesus does decide to move on.
  - There are two things that we need to pay special attention to in these verses...
- **Unbelief in Jesus Hinders His Work. (V. 5)**
  - 'And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.'
  - I believe Jesus was morally and spiritually constrained not to reveal His power in such an environment in Nazareth that day, where there was much rejection and unbelief.
  - **Scholar James Edwards accurately said 'Mark is more willing to ascribe unapologetic humanness to Jesus than any other Gospel writer.'**

- *Mark is clear to explain that Jesus walks the same road that the peasants, tax collectors and others face.*
        - He faced and felt rejection from others. He was fully God yet He was also fully man.
  - *Luke leaves this part out in his account of this situation in Luke 4:16-30, and Matthew downplays it in Matthew 13:58.*
    - But we must understand that while God can do anything, people choose to limit themselves in how they can see God work with the amount of faith they are willing to have or don't have.
  - *In reality, verse 5 clears up that Jesus was not the kind of Miracle worker who only wanted to impress the onlookers, no, He wanted to see people saved.*
    - No limit what God can do in your life because of your like of faith...
      - 'Oh Ye of little faith'.
- *Unbelief Amazes Jesus. (V. 6)*
  - 'And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.'
  - *Only two times in scripture do we find that Jesus is 'amazed'.*
    - Here, and in Luke 7:9 where Jesus saw the faith of a Roman centurion who believed that Jesus could heal from a long distance with just a single word.
- *\*Word Study\**
  - The english word 'Marveled' comes from the greek word '*Thaumazo*' *ἐθαύμαζε* which literally means to be astonished and to be amazed.
- *What we have here, is that both Nazareth and Jesus are astonished with one another.*
  - Nazareth couldn't get past Jesus humble beginnings and the fact that they saw Him grow up.
  - Jesus could not get past the fact that they had unbelief in life of what He said and did.
- *Dr. Daniel Aiken says that the reaction of Nazareth is a foreshadowing:*
  - *'This sadly foreshadows the unbelief of the nation of Israel as a whole, of many in our world, and even of many in our Churches.'*
- *What amazes Jesus here is not the sinfulness of humanity, but the unwillingness to believe in Him as our Savior when He's done so much and the evidence is so clear and obvious.*
  - The greatest problem in the world is the inability of some to choose to put faith in Christ and in Christ alone.

### Conclusion:

- While the main ‘crux’ of our passage this morning is the fact that Jesus was hated in His Hometown, and anyone who feels called to vocational ministry, must be careful of this and take this into consideration.
  - ***But also what we find here is their unbelief.***
  - ***We see what Jesus faces, but the fact that the people could not get over this in order to put faith in Christ and be safe is quite alarming.***
    - ***Yet many people that we brush shoulders with every single day fall into this same category.***
- Where do you stand with Jesus?
  - ***Maybe you believe in Him as Lord and Savior, but you’re lacking faith in a certain area of your life?***
    - It’s time to turn that over to Him today.
  - And for the preacher boys who are here today, that God has called you to preach, you need to take these three truths to heart in your ministry and remember them everyday....
    - ‘The prophet shall be hated in his own town.’
- **Truth 1: *Hometown Relationships can Block Your Ministry. (V. 1-3)***
- **Truth 2: *Honor is Non-Existent in Your Hometown. (V. 4)***
- **Truth 3: *Hindrance to the Ministry can Occur in Your Hometown. (V. 5-6)***