

Series: Gospel of Mark
"Unbelievable Unbelief" # 20
Mark 6:1-6
6-4-17 Sun AM

Two times in the NT Jesus was amazed at people and both involved faith.

1. He marveled at the faith of the Roman Centurion in Luke 7:9
2. He marveled at the unbelief in his hometown of Nazareth (6:6).

Unbelief in Jesus causes people to die in their sins and spend eternity in hell. People who believe in Jesus go to heaven when they die, and people who don't believe in Jesus don't go to heaven.

Context:

1. Crowds- Mark records several significant miracles proving the power of Jesus over creation, demons, disease and death. Many followed him for the miracles and had no true saving faith (John 2:24; 6:66).
2. Pharisees- They hated Jesus and plotted to kill him. They were jealous and threatened by Jesus. They were in bondage to hypocrisy and tradition in their self-righteousness.
3. Jesus: Jesus makes his second recorded trip to his hometown. His first trip was after the temptation in the wilderness (Luke 4:1).

TT- Jesus gave them plenty of evidence to believe. The response of the Nazarenes reveals the nature of unbelief.

Q- What makes unbelief so unbelievable (v. 6)?

I. Unbelief Brings Blindness (vs. 1-3a).

1. Note the word "Astonished" (v. 2b).

Those who heard him were utterly amazed. The word astonished means "to strike" or "to blast." Jesus blew their minds.

Yet they believed not and hardened their hearts in willful rejection. Rather than recognize that Jesus was empowered by God, they questioned him (v. 3c).

Note, in order to maintain their unbelief, they looked for an explanation other than the obvious. They were the hard heart Jesus talked about in his parable of the soils.

They had been given more than enough evidence; yet they refused to believe in him. They were blind in their willful rejection.

2. Note that they were too familiar with him (3a).

They attempted to justify their unbelief. He was their neighbor, they knew his parents and siblings. He had no theological training or religious credentials.

Rather than embracing him as the Messiah they responded with resentment, derision, and unbelief.

1. This is the only place in the gospels where Jesus was referred to by this title. Maybe they implied Joseph was not the father or he had already die.

2. His siblings thought he had lost his senses and did not believe till after the resurrection.

3. Mary was not a perpetual virgin but gave birth to at least 6 other children after being conceived by the Holy Spirit in her virgin womb.

P- Two reasons people remain in unbelief today- They heard the evidence but refuse in their blind heart. They are so familiar with him in the Bible belt that they miss who he is, the Son of God.

I. Unbelief Brings Blindness (vs. 1-3a).

II. Unbelief Brings Offense (vs. 3b-4).

1. Note the word "offense." (v. 3b).

Means "to snare" or "to cause to stumble." What offends the lost is when they are confronted with who Jesus is, you they are, and their eternal destiny without him.

Turn to I Cor. 15:1-4

2. Jesus responded with a true saying in v. 4.

They were too familiar with him that they rejected him. Everyone who follows him from the apostles, disciples, and to us will be persecuted.

They hate his very name. The very fact they hate him and fight so hard against him, is evidence of his existence and who he is.

III. Unbelief Brings Judgment (vs. 5-6).

1. Jesus' response to their unbelief (v. 5).

Jesus could have done mighty works but He chose not to because of their unbelief, not because He lacked supernatural power.

Rather, there was no reason for miracles since the purpose of miracles was to attest that he was Lord and Messiah. Because of their hardened unbelief, miracles were unnecessary.

This was not that his ability to do miracles was dependent on the faith of the people.

1. He frequently healed people who did not express faith (Luke 17:11; John 5:13; 9:1; Mark 1:23; Matt. 12:22).

2. If He had done more miracles then they would have more severe judgment in hell because they were given more light and opportunity. He was merciful even in their unbelief!

P- It is very dangerous to be in church and be so familiar with his teachings and the practice of the church and remain in willful rejection.

3. Even Jesus wondered at their unbelief. That's why it is unbelievable unbelief!