

一件令全知的主诧异的事 ——马可福音 6:1-6

Something That Shocked the All-Knowing Lord – Mark 6:1-6

Introduction, outline

- Scripture reading: Mark 6:1-6; Psalm 14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Teaching text : Mark 6:1-6

1 Jesus went out from there and came into His hometown; and His disciples followed Him. **2** When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, “Where did this man *get* these things, and what is *this* wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? **3** Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?” And they took offense at Him. **4** Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his *own* relatives and in his *own* household.” **5** And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. **6** And He wondered at their unbelief. And He was going around the villages teaching.

- Many believers, knowing the preciousness of the Gospel, earnestly want to share it with everyone, and they genuinely think no one can say no to such a wonderful message. How could anyone possibly reject this amazing news? Are you surprised there're people who reject the Gospel?
- **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** (NASB 1995): "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."
- Unbelief is a powerful force. Unbelief covers the sinners' eyes so they can't see the obvious reality. Unbelief confuses the mind so they can't reason rightly, distorting objective evidence and obscuring clear facts. Unbelief manufactures all kinds of excuses in the heart so they can feel they're totally justified to reject God.
- Outline:
 - Title: Something That Shocked the All-Knowing Lord
 - 1. The Context of Unbelief (vv 1-2a)
 - 2. The Character of Unbelief (vv 2b-3a)
 - 2a. Unbelief Ignores God (v2b)
 - 2b. Unbelief Loves Smokescreen (v3a)
 - 3. The Consequence of Unbelief (vv 3b-6)

The Context of Unbelief (vv 1-2a)

- "Came into His hometown": Nazareth. This is the second time Jesus returned home since the beginning of His public ministry, and it is the last recorded instance. The first time is mentioned in Luke 4:16-30, where He preached the good news but was rejected by the people and nearly thrown off a cliff. At that time, Jesus had just started His public ministry, and now, after seeing much fruit of His ministry, His fellow countrymen remain unchanged in their attitude toward Him.

- "His disciples followed Him": What might the townspeople think about these disciples? Perhaps, "What a bunch of fools!" Part of Jesus' purpose in bringing them here must've been to prepare them for rejection. They'll face ridicule, mockery, and rejection in their ministry.

【Principle】 Christians will undoubtedly face ridicule, mockery, and rejection from the world.

2 Timothy 3:12: "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."

- "When the Sabbath came": This implies that nothing had happened before the Sabbath. Unlike in Capernaum, where upon entering the city, Jesus was immediately surrounded by crowds. Earlier, Jesus' own brothers had already thought He was out of His mind (3:21), and the people of Nazareth were not at all interested in this "crazy" person.
- "He began to teach in the synagogue": He had just begun to teach and they were all "astonished." They began whispering among themselves and had no real interest in listening to his teaching. People in other places must've shown him more respect, but in Nazareth, the power of unbelief was too strong for them to listen. Having watched him grow up, they thought they already knew Jesus. When Jesus revealed a part of Him that they didn't know, teaching the truth of God, their unbelieving hearts immediately began seeking excuses to reject him.

The Character of Unbelief (vv 2b-3a)

Unbelief Ignores God (v2b)

- "Where did this man get these things?" - Obviously from God. What things? First, wisdom. "what is this wisdom given to Him?" Obviously God's wisdom. Second, power. "and such miracles as these performed by His hands?" Obviously God's power. Anyone with a reasonable mind can put together the evidence and immediately come to the conclusion: Jesus is from God. However, the power of unbelief can obscure reason so that their thinking faculty cannot function properly.

【Principle】 Unbelief can cause people to deliberately ignore God. Ignore the fact there is a God and that He can work through man and give man wisdom to proclaim His message. (Romans 1:19-21)

2 Peter 3:5: "For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water"

Psalms 14:1: "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"

Unbelief Loves Smokescreen (v3a)

- "Is not this the carpenter?" - Whether he is or not, what does it have to do with the truths he's teaching? Can't the incarnate God engage in an occupation of ordinary men? Yes, He was a carpenter, but what does that have to do with the identity He just revealed through miracles and the powerful truths he preaches? Absolutely nothing. It's a total smokescreen.
- "the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? ... His sisters...": Even more irrelevant. They're talking about all His relatives. So, the incarnate God was born into an ordinary human family, what's wrong with that?

【Digging Deeper】 They have a preconceived notion of how God should work, and they're only willing to believe if God follows their preconception. They thought if God were going to come teach

them, He must not have such a humble background. He must be a kind of bright-shining superstar all along, distinct from everyone else.

【Insight】 Their misunderstanding inadvertently highlights Jesus' humility. Jesus was born in the lowest manner, went through the most ordinary upbringing, all to identify with the lowest of sinners and accomplish salvation for those who trust in Him.

【Analogy】 Today, unbelief still shows these similar traits. Unbelievers **deliberately forget about God**. When they see a beautiful sight, they go, "Wow! The wonders of Nature!" They go to a botanical garden or a zoo and wonder, "**Where did all these come from?**" When their God-given conscience convicts them of guilt, they wonder, "**Where does guilt come from?**" When these questions become too loud in their heart, they use smokescreens to block them out. They use evolution or the Big Bang to block out natural revelation, and all kinds of psychological theories to block out the revelation of their conscience.

The Consequence of Unbelief (vv 3b-6)

- "took offense at Him" - Literally, "stumbled upon Him." They regard Jesus as a stumbling block, something that hinders and annoys them. They wish to get rid of him ASAP. To say they stumbled upon Jesus doesn't mean Jesus caused them to sin; rather, when Jesus presented the truth before them, it exposed the evil within their hearts. In this sense, Jesus became a stumbling block for them.

1 Peter 2:7-8 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone," 8 and, "**A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense**"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

Matthew 21:44 "And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust."

- "In his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own household" - As the saying goes, "Familiarity breeds contempt." You think you already know this person, so he can't possibly be more than that or know something you don't or teach you about the truth.

【Illustration】 Sometimes sharing the Gospel with family members can be especially difficult, especially with those older than you. The unbelieving heart might say, "Why should I listen to you? Who gives you the right to tell me what I should or shouldn't do?"

【In a broader sense】 "Hometown" isn't just Nazareth. The whole world was created by Jesus Himself. This statement of Jesus also foreshadows His being rejected by the Jewish people as a whole, as well as His continuing rejection by this sinful world.

John 1:10-11: "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him."

【Principle】 The world as a whole will stumble over Jesus and say, "Why should I listen to Him? Who gives Him the right to teach me?" Unless God changes the heart, no one can believe Jesus is the eternal God in the flesh to redeem His people from sin.

- "could do no miracle there" - Is Jesus' power dependent on people's faith? Certainly not. The sole determining factor of when and how Jesus does miracles is God's will. God's will for miracles is to show Jesus is God and thereby authenticate the truth He teaches (cf. John 4:48; 14:11). If hearts are already set on disbelief, then there's no point to do miracles. That's what it means that Jesus could do no miracles in Nazareth.
- "except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them" - Obviously some hearts had not reached the point of being completely hardened beyond salvation. Jesus knew the condition of every heart. Even when the crowd as a whole is beyond any hope, salvation could still come to individual persons within the crowd.
- "He wondered at their unbelief" - Usually, it's Jesus who makes others wonder; there are only two cases where Jesus wondered at others: once He wondered at the centurion's faith (Matthew 8:10), and once He wondered at the unbelief of the Nazarenes. Jesus lived a perfect life before their eyes since childhood, and logically, they should've been the ones who would most easily believe in Him. Confronted with such stubborn unbelief, even the Lord who knows all human hearts couldn't help but be surprised that unbelief can make such hard hearts.
- "And He was going around the villages teaching." - As far as we know, Jesus never returned to Nazareth. The result of unbelief is that Jesus wouldn't waste more time and energy on them. Opportunities are always limited, and this holds true for everyone.

Application Summary

Non-believers – do not stumble upon Jesus!

Brothers and sisters -

1. *Know that only the work of the Holy Spirit can lead people to faith in Jesus.*
2. *See the glory of Jesus' humility.*
3. *Be prepared for rejection when sharing the Gospel.*
4. *Avoid holding any preconceived notion about how God works in all things.*