

# Unbelievable Unbelief

- Mark 6:1-6b
- The Gospel of Mark is a wonderful devotional for new believers
- This section closes out the larger 3:13 - 6:6
  - On the Sabbath He healed a man with a withered hand
  - Healed the crowds
  - Chose the Twelve
  - His family thought he was insane
  - The unpardonable sin
  - Who are my mother and brothers?
  - The Kingdom is like -
    - The parable of the soils
    - The purpose of parables
    - A lamp under a basket
    - The parable of seeds and sowing
    - The parable of the mustard seed
  - He calms the storm
  - He heals the man with the demon
  - He heals Jairus's daughter
  - He heals the bleeding woman
- The power of unbelief
  - Eve did not believe
  - The world did not believe Noah
  - Israel did not believe in the wilderness
  - Aaron did not believe and 3000 died
  - Moses' unbelief kept him out of the promised land
  - Many other examples
  - John 3:16 - 18
  - Acts 13:31 (NLT) - 'Look, you mockers, be amazed and die! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it.'"
- Jesus goes to his hometown despite tensions with his family
- As is so often the case, he begins to teach.
- Rewind - 1 year earlier

- Returned from temptation in the wilderness
- He begins at home
- Luke 4:14-30
- He reminds the people of Nazareth that when Israel rejects God's prophets, he sends them elsewhere, even to the gentiles.
- Elijah and Elisha were sent to pagan lands
- All the synagogue were filled with rage
- The attempt to kill Jesus
- Casts the shadow of the cross early in his ministry - in his own home town.
- Fast forward
  - The scene is Nazareth
    - A small town about 200-500 people
    - About 60 acres on a rocky hillside
    - Joseph went there to hide
    - "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" (Nathanael)
    - Matthew 2:23 - the prophets spoke that he would be called a Nazarine (despised)
    - He was despised by the despised
    - He was a home-town boy (A nobody from nowhere)
- His disciples followed him (not alone)
  - They have been with him for a year
  - They have been in training (internship)
  - About to be sent out on their trial run
  - First hand experience of what it will be like to be in the ministry
  - He was the guest speaker
    - Although he is Lord of the Sabbath, he himself attends the Sabbath
  - He began to teach
  - Many were astonished (they were beaten to a pulp; pummeled mercilessly; blew their minds)
    - Wonder and amazement does not equal faith and repentance
    - Where did *this* man (this fellow) get these things (he was a sleeper)
    - What is the wisdom given to *him*? (Wait! Wisdom given to *him*?!)
    - How are such mighty works done by *his* hands?
    - Is not this the carpenter?
      - He's just a nobody, blue collar worker
      - Who does He think He is? He thinks he is better than us
  - Now they get nasty:

- The son of Mary?
  - Insulting his birth and his mother (was Joseph really his father?)
- Brother of James and Joses and Judas (Jude) and Simon?
  - Nothing special about his family at the time
  - Even his brothers were not believing in him
  - James was a pillar in the Jerusalem church, and wrote the book of James
  - Judas (Jude) wrote the book of Jude
- His sisters are here with us?
- They took offense at him
  - He offended them. They found him offensive. (An offensive odor)
    - **2 Corinthians 2:15-16** - "For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life."
  - You would think they would be glad to have a celebrity from a small town
  - They are 2 of the soils in the parable of the soils
  - They stumbled into sin
- A prophet is not without honor except:
  - In his home town
  - Among his relatives
  - And in his own household
- He could do no mighty work there except a few sick
  - God's power is not diminished
  - There is no immovable rock
  - Matthew 13:58 - he did not do many mighty works there.
  - Perhaps their unbelief kept them from coming for healing
  - He will not force miracles upon a skeptical, unbelieving audience
- He marveled at their unbelief
  - Completely astonished and amazed
  - His jaw dropped
  - Unbelievable unbelief
  - Only 2 times did Jesus marvel
    - He marveled at belief
      - Matthew 8:5-13 the centurion
    - He marveled at unbelief
      - More than frustration and anger and grief

- Familiarity breeds contempt
- If *anyone* should have believed in him, it should have been them.
- He moved his home base away from Nazareth and never returned
- What about you?
  - Grew up in church
  - Grew up in a Christian home
  - Went to a Christian school
  - Grew up in a Christian society
  - If anyone should believe, it should be you.
  - If you do not believe: unbelievable