



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Week 16: Familiarity Breeds Contempt

Mark 6:1-13

1. When It Comes To Faith, Familiarity Can Breed Contempt

Read Mark 6: 1-4

Jesus was not well received by the people who had known him all his life in his home town of Nazareth. They could see the miracles he performed but it did not create a sense of wonder and awe in them because he was familiar to them. Sometimes as Christians, we get so used to the concept of salvation, that we forget its significance and we easily forget about the incredible things God has done in our lives. This is something we need to work on changing.

- ❖ Q: Why do you think many of us go through patches where we become blasé about our salvation?
- ❖ Q: Why do you think we so often lack in awe and wonder about the things God has done in our lives in the past, about things God is doing in those around us and in our church?
- ❖ Q: How can we as a Gospel Community encourage one another to keep the awe and wonder of Jesus at the centre of our lives? (E.g. Could we spend time hearing one another's salvation stories, feedback on answers to prayer requests weekly etc.?)

2. When It Comes To Faith, The Humility Of Jesus Is Alarming And Encouraging

Hebrews 4:15 tells us that Jesus is our sympathetic high priest who understands our weaknesses. Even though the way in which he chose to humble himself drove many in his town away from him, it should be an encouragement to us:

- I. He worked a job in obscurity
- II. He got mocked and rejected
- III. He had his motives misunderstood

- ❖ Q: Which of these 3 difficulties that Jesus faced do you most strongly identify with?
 - 1) Working in obscurity
 - 2) Getting mocked by people who have known you for years or being rejected
 - 3) Having your motives misunderstood
- ❖ Q: Why does it help us to know that Jesus also experienced so many of the challenges that we face with people today?

3. When It Comes To Faith, It Takes Faith To See Faith-Inspiring Things

Read Mark 6: 5-6

Jesus would not do any great miracles in Nazareth because the people did not believe, but he did still heal a few people who were ill. His hands were not tied because of their lack of faith, but he chose to perform great miracles in places where people believed and where it would spur on their faith. Our faith does not unlock God's power as if we are the source of power, but rather our faith brings us in line with God's heart which is moved to act by faith-filled hearts. Many of us have stopped having faith in God's goodness and his ability to intervene in our situations. The sad thing is that if God moved mightily despite our lack of faith, we would probably not recognize it as his great power at work.

- ❖ Q: Why is it important for us to see that Jesus still healed some sick people in the town where the people had no faith?
- ❖ Q: Why was Jesus moved to perform great miracles when people had faith in him?
- ❖ Q: Do you think this means that every time we believe for something strongly enough that God will do it for us? Why not?





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4. When It Comes To Faith, Jesus Teaches Us The Most About It In Seasons Of Lack

Read Mark 6: 7-10

Having just spent time in Nazareth with people who did not trust him, Jesus then sent out his disciples to train them to trust in him. He accomplished this by sending them out with very little so that they would learn to trust him in and through their lack. We seem to rely on God far more when we are in lack, and yet most of us do everything that we can in order to not experience lack or want.

- ❖ Q: How do you think the disciples learned trust in Jesus by being sent out with no provision?
- ❖ Q: Have you ever been in a position where God has put you into a season of lack? What did that do to your faith?
- ❖ Q: In what area of your life are you experiencing lack that could be used to train you to trust in Jesus more?
- ❖ Q: Do you think it does our faith in Christ harm when we strive to ensure that we will lack nothing in our future, be that for ourselves or our children? Explain.

5. When It Comes To Faith, Jesus Entrusts His Unlikely Message To Unlikely Messengers

Read Mark 6: 11-13

Jesus didn't wait for the disciples to be "well-qualified" in order to send them out to preach the message of repentance. He even sent out Judas who would later betray Jesus. Eventually, 11 of these men would be sent out to take the gospel message to the nations. This unpopular message would be carried by unlikely messengers and the world would never be the same again. Jesus still sends out unlikely messengers. He wants each one of us to be spreading his message, no matter how ill qualified we might feel.

- ❖ Q: Why is it good news for us that the disciples were not well-qualified when taking Jesus' message to the world around them?
- ❖ Q: How are we doing as a Gospel Community in taking the gospel message to people in our world?
- ❖ Q: Are we being strategic and intentional about being on mission together in this neighbourhood? If not, what steps could we take as a group to become intentionally missional?
- ❖ Q: What opportunities do we have in our individual lives right now where we could share the gospel with someone? How can we as a group be supporting and praying for you as you seek to share Jesus in this specific situation?

