

“Jesus in the Real World”
April 27, 2014

Mark 6:1-44

PROP- When Jesus “became flesh”—He stepped into a very real world. Watch as He encounters and overcomes some of life’s greatest challenges.

1. THOSE WHO RESISTED & REJECTED HIM (6:1-6)

- His 2nd trip to His hometown of Nazareth; on His 1st trip (Luke 4) they tried to kill Him; yet He left unharmed—walked thru the crowd
 - He was giving them a 2nd chance
 - Invited to speak in the synagogue (center of the town’s spiritual, social, civil life)
 - They were “AMAZED”—“*to strike a blow and leave senseless*”—at His wisdom & miracles...AMAZED, but UNFAZED. CHALLENGED yet UNCHANGED.
 - They labeled Him: “the son of Mary” (still dishonoring Mary; shaming Him; no mention of Joseph)
 - They “took offense”—“*stumbling over His words; unable to accept them*” (though they were amazed at His wisdom)
 - They limited Him: “He could only heal a few who were sick” (though they were amazed at His miracles elsewhere)
- Jesus’ responses:
 - He had compassion for, yet refused to be controlled by them (including His family)
 - Their labels did not stick on Him (“w/o honor in His hometown”)
 - He is “amazed” at their *stubborn refusal to believe Him*
 - Yet, the rejection of most did not stop Him from ministering to the few who were hungry (SEE John 1:11-12)

2. THOSE WHO WERE EAGER, YET INEXPERIENCED (6:7-13,30-32)

- He sent them (*opposite of Nazareth’s treatment*) He refused to limit them to who they were—releasing them to who they were becoming!
- He sent them in twos (to confirm their testimony (Deut. 17:6) and for mutual support)(Interdependence)
- He gave them authority over evil spirits (*real weapons for the real war*)
- Their initial journey was a short one (*small beginnings*) (NOTE: Later He would prepare them for a longer journey -Luke 22)
- Honor those who receive you by receiving their hospitality (“stay there” vs. looking for “better” lodging)

- **“Shake the dust” of those who refuse to hear** (1- There will be persecution; 2- You don’t have to carry their rejection with you; 3- Refuse anger as your response, leaving their judgment to God)
- They both **declared and demonstrated the Gospel** (*“preach & heal”*)
- Following a time of pouring out, they need to take time to drink in—**resting and reflecting in His presence** (NOTE: Never let the “powerful times of ministry” replace the “personal times in His presence”)

3. **THOSE WHO WERE NEEDY & PERSISTANT** (6:33-44)

- **Learn to adjust your expectations** (*their time in the boat was their only rest time alone with Jesus*)
- **Never lose your compassion** (*refuse to let frustration & impatience rob you of opportunities*)
- **See people through His eyes** (*“like sheep w/o a shepherd”*) (C.S. Lewis- *“I have never met a mere human.”*)
- **Learn to look beyond the impossibility by learning to listen to His voice**
NOTE: Jesus most likely prayed this prayer, a common rabbinical prayer as recorded in the Mishnah:
“Blessed are You, Eternal God our Father, King of the Universe Who causes bread to come forth from the earth. Blessed is He Who worked miracles for our fathers in this place.”
- **Anticipate increase** (*12 baskets of leftovers after feeding 10,000 people—women and children not noted in the count of 5,000 men—“far above and beyond”!*)

RESPONSE

Let’s trust Jesus to take us:

- Beyond offense & rejection
- Beyond “inadequacy” & “failure”
- Beyond impossibility