

Mrk18 – Amazed At Unbelief – Mark 6:1-6

Dave Shepardson, wordbymail.com

Only TWO times does the Bible say JESUS was AMAZED

ONCE he was Amazed by a High Level of BELIEF

ONCE he was Amazed by a High Level of UN-BELIEF

Jesus was Amazed by the Level of BELIEF
of a Gentile Roman Centurion in Mat Ch 8

& today – we see Jesus AMAZED

by the Level of UNBELIEF
of the people - in his own home town

What does it TAKE
to leave Jesus - AMAZED at our UNBELIEF?

Let's Pray - & we'll see

Remember – Mark often writes things in THREE'S
to help us GET the Big Picture

When we last left MARK
we finished looking at a TRILOGY of messages

That ALL showed the POWER that Jesus has
over ALL things on this earth

Today we start another TRILOGY in Mark's Gospel

& I'd call this TRILOGY
THE COST OF SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

We're going to start TODAY

with what it COST JESUS
to Share the GOOD NEWS
with the people in his own home town

NEXT WEEK – We'll see what it COST THE DISCIPLES
to share the GOOD NEWS – in other towns

& FINALLY – we'll look at what it COST JOHN THE BAPTIST
to Share the GOOD NEWS with Herod Antipas
(*Roman Governor of Galilee*)

& my prayer – in THIS Trilogy of messages

is that You & I - would learn to EMBRACE the COST
of Sharing the GOOD NEWS

With those we LOVE

With STRANGERS

& even With those who can HARM us

We were last with Jesus in Capernaum

with the **people pressing in** on him **so much**
that **he** could **barely move** thru the **crowd**

There was **SUCH BELIEF** there
SUCH FAITH in the Crowd . . .

that a **Woman reached out & touched**
the **Robe** of **Jesus** - & **she was healed**

& the **Jewish Synagogue leader's Daughter**
was **raised from the Dead!**

That environment was **one** of
Incredible FAITH – & **MIRACLES** - & a **HUGE Following**

& then we read in - Mark 6:1 (NLT)

1 Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown.

So **often** – we **see Jesus do** the **exact opposite**
of what **Church Growth Books** Tell us to **do** - **Today**

You **can't find** a **Church Best-Seller** today – that **says**

Just when **things** are **getting off the ground**

Just as **you're getting** a really **good following** . . .

LEAVE that place - & go to a place where you know

**The people are going to totally REJECT you
& where you'll have ZERO success**

We need to be very careful using the world's LOGIC
to Do God's Work, right?

Because MOST of the time
the World's LOGIC – is CONTRARY to God's WAYS

So - Jesus had grown up in Nazareth

in fact, he lived there - with his Family – until he was 30

Nazareth was a very small town
on the edge of a rocky little hill

With Scholars estimating
it's total population around 500

Which means everyone KNEW Jesus & his family

& so – we have to ask ourselves

WHY did Jesus leave
the Growing Mega-Following in Capernaum

& RETURN to Nazareth – his Hometown ??

It may've been – because there was Something there
Jesus WANTED his Disciples to SEE

& WHEN they SAW IT - it was going to PREPARE them
for their OWN - Next Step in Following Jesus

& if WE will see it Today – it will PREPARE US
As WE continue to Follow Jesus

Jesus was about to teach his disciples - BY EXAMPLE
The AMAZEMENT of UNBELIEF

But – to Really GRASP Where we're going

We have to first REVIEW Two Events
that occurred prior to our Text Today

For the First Event - Notice MARK 6:1 says

Jesus RETURNED with his Disciples
to NAZARETH

because Jesus had already BEEN
to Nazareth ONCE

I can only review these TWO PRIOR Events for you today

So - just write these Scriptures in the margin
of the Bible you bring with you each week

& then you can read them for yourselves later

For this FIRST one write – LUKE 4:14-30

After the Temptation in the Wilderness

LUKE 4:14 says *Jesus returned to the area of the Galilee*
FULL of the Holy Spirit's Power

& Jesus was going town to town in the Galilee
with his reputation preceding him

& when he got to Nazareth . . .

IN the Synagogue - ON the Sabbath -
the Scroll of Isaiah was handed to him

& Jesus read the Famous Vs's
about the Coming Messiah from Isaiah 61

Then Jesus explained very clearly that HE, himself,
WAS The Messiah – promised in ISAIAH

& - at this point – Luke 4:29 says
the people MOBBED him

They drug him to the edge of a cliff
& they tried to throw him to his death

THAT was the **FIRST Experience of Jesus**

Sharing the **GOOD NEWS**

with **the People** in his home town – of Nazareth

They **all decided** - it **was best** to **go ahead** & **KILL HIM**

Can anyone relate to that?

The 2nd Event we need to review

Is one we looked at - back in **Mark Ch 3**

Write – **Mark 3:20-35** in your margin

There - As **Jesus** was **teaching** in a **house**
& the **crowds** were **gathering** around **him**

Suddenly – HIS **Own FAMILY** showed up –
& **they** were **very concerned** for him

& **V.21** says they **tried** to **take him away** (meaning by **force**)

because his **family thought**
Jesus was OUT OF HIS MIND!

Then, in **V.31** his family **even tried to set a trap**
to **get** Jesus **ALONE**
to **take him away** by **FORCE**

to get him to stop making a fool of himself

So – those are the Two Big – Run-Up Events

that “Set the Stage” for Jesus
RETURNING to his Home Town

In order to SHARE the GOSPEL
with the People he grew up with

AND – (it seems to me) – To PREPARE his Disciples

for when THEY would go out
to SHARE the Good News themselves

So – with that background

Let’s Re-Read Vs.1 – along with V.2

Mark 6:1-2 (NLT)

1 Jesus left that part of the country (Capernaum) and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown.

2 The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, “Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?”

Many who heard Jesus – were AMAZED

BUT – this is a DIFFERENT GK WORD
than we’re going to see later

When it’s used for Jesus being AMAZED
at the UNBELIEF of the people here

THIS GK WORD is most often translated "astonished"
one translation says, "they were completely flabbergasted"

When they HEARD the WORDS of Jesus
& When they HEARD of all his MIRACLES

The **townspeople - who all knew Jesus** growing up
were **Astonished** – they were **Flabbergasted**

They had ACKNOWLEDGED - & were ASTONISHED BY

The **WISDOM** of his **WORDS**
& the **POWER** of his **MIRACLES**

it's **NOT** that they **Didn't HAVE** the **FACTS** about **Jesus**

It's **NOT** that they **Didn't HAVE** the **PROOF** about **Jesus**

They had the FACTS - & They had the PROOF

But – **Listen**, Please

They had a PREDISPOSED OPINION

That **DROVE their Response** to **The Good News** about Jesus

Here it is - Mark 6:3 (NLT) → →

Mark 6:3 (NLT)

3 Then they scoffed, (they had the facts – they had the proof - & they Scoffed) **“He’s just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us.” They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.**

There’s a LOT of information in this vs

FIRST – “He’s just a carpenter”

speaks of the people’s familiarity with Jesus

Which COLORS or FILTERS

everything they hear from him

THEN – “He’s the son of Mary”

Which – (Contrary to Some Common View)

is NOT Respectful – to EITHER Jesus OR Mary

A man was always called by his FATHER’S Name

UNLESS the mother Wasn’t Married

OR - Didn’t KNOW who the baby’s father was

I know we just sang these words at Christmas

but this is actually an insulting “Predisposed view”

of both Jesus AND Mary

**FINALLY – although (again) the Catholic Church
has an explanation for this**

**ALL other Bible Scholars & Historians are clear
these are (most likely) the FOUR Birth-Brothers of Jesus**

Who, along with his sisters, were all children of Mary
& who grew up with Jesus – in Nazareth

But – with all those interesting Facts
the important point is at the end of the Vs

Mark 6:3 . . . They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.

THE GK WORD for “deeply offended” is a heavy word

It means: “*To be filled with disgust or revulsion for someone*”

**The people who were closest to Jesus
while he was growing up - SINLESS**

Were now filled with Disgust & Revulsion toward him

**& I think Jesus
really wanted his Disciples to see this – First Hand**

& I think Some OF US need to See This – First Hand

NOT for us to Get Judgmental - or Angry

But – to Remember – *If it happened to Jesus*
Who are we - to think it shouldn't happen to us?

& then Jesus gives us

The best "Probable Reason" for this – in the Next Vs

Mark 6:4 (NLT)

4 Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family."

This is the same response Jesus gave at his first visit

& - it was actually a well-known saying at the time
& still is today

WHY is that?

I think PARTLY because of another famous saying
"Familiarity Breeds Contempt"

Altho – it shouldn't have - with Jesus

because he never showed

a "Sin Side" of himself to these people (*he didn't have one*)

But – I think **MORE IMPORTANTLY** – this is a **Clear Display**
of the **RAW POWER of UNBELIEF**

TRULY BELIEVING in **Jesus** Christ
Is a **very, very POWERFUL** thing

BUT –The **RAW POWER** of **DETERMINED UNBELIEF**
can be **Equally AS POWERFUL**

I **think** the **Biggest Lesson** here
& **by far** – the **SCARIEST LESSON**

is the **Sheer, Direction-Setting POWER**
of **Determined UNBELIEF**

The **people** of **Nazareth** had **HEARD**
the **Supernatural WISDOM** of the **WORDS of Jesus**

They Had **SEEN** (or **HEARD OF**)
the **Supernatural POWER** of his **MIRACLES**

& they **simply** - & **completely** – **DENIED the Facts**
& **DENIED the Proof** – of **all** they **had heard** & **seen**

**Have you experienced this – maybe with family or friends
Or someone you care deeply about ??**

The **evidence** is **THERE**
the **Facts** & the **Proof** are **Undeniable**

BUT – it **seems** like the **person** had **made**
a **Pre-Determined Commitment**

to **NOT BELIEVE** anything you **say**
before you have **even spoken ONE WORD**

& - **Here** is the **Truly Scary part**

This **DETERMINED UNBELIEF** - Actually **IMPACTS**
what God is **ABLE to DO** – in that **person's life**

Look at - Mark 6:5 (NLT)

5 And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them.

This **Does NOT mean**
that Jesus **didn't have the POWER**

It Means
that he **didn't have the PURPOSE**

Listen please

Jesus is **NOT** going to perform a Miracle
to CONVINCE you to believe

Jesus is going to perform a Miracle
BECAUSE you believe

& because it advances - HIS purpose & HIS Kingdom

Guys - Faith is;

Not BELIEVING because you SEE
But SEEING because you BELIEVE

& Jesus KNEW – in Nazareth

No Miracle was Possible
because there was NO Believing There

BUT – as always – for the few who humbly came to him
he placed his hands on them - & he healed them

Probably – without many other people even SEEING it

here then – Finally – is THE REAL STORY – THE M.I.P.

Mark 6:6(a) (NLT)

6 And he was amazed at their unbelief . . .

Jesus – was **AMAZED** at their **UNBELIEF**

THIS GK WORD for **Amazed**

means to **WONDER** or **MARVEL** at a **thing**

Jesus “**Marveled**” at their **Unbelief**

He was **AMAZED** – at their **Commitment** – **to NOT believe**

DETERMINED UNBELIEF is really powerful

It is **AMAZING** how **UNBELIEF** can **Respond**
in the **Face** of **FACTS & PROOF**

It is **SO Amazing** – that it **STARTLES Jesus** here

The **people of Nazareth**

Acknowledged the **WISDOM** of his **Words**

They were **Aware** of the **PROOF** of his **Miracles**

Yet they were **so committed** - to **NOT believing**
that it **left Jesus** – **AMAZED**

The famous Scholar J.C. Ryle said this;

It is neither the lack of evidence nor the difficulties of Christian doctrine that make people unbelievers. It is lack of will to believe.

It **reminds me** of the **Parable** of
the **Rich Man & Lazarus** – in **Luke 16:19-31**

The **Rich man & Lazarus** both die

Lazarus goes into the **presence of God** (Abraham's Bosom)

The **Rich man** is **separated from God** by his **unbelief**

& the **Rich man** asks "**Father Abraham**"

to send **Lazarus back** from the **dead**

so that his **brothers** will **BELIEVE**

& **not end up** in the **same place** as him

& in **Luke 16:31** – **Abraham says** to the **Rich Man**

"If they won't listen to [God's testimony], they won't be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead."

Please – If **you** are **listening today**

PLEASE – **Don't** be **So Hardened** in your **UN-Belief**

that **even if someone** were to **rise from the dead**

you **still wouldn't believe**

The **Bible says** – ***Eternal Life & Eternal Death***
HANG in the **Balance** – of your **BELIEF** or **UNBELIEF**

The **Bible** is the **Most Supernatural, Miraculous,**
Divinely Inspired writing - that has **ever existed**

With **2,000 years of proof**
in **every possible area** of **Science & History**

& **yet** – **people** so **easily say** – **WELL, HERE'S WHAT I THINK**

& **they TAKE their own opinion,**
fashioned from their **own experience**

& they **put it ABOVE** the Most **Supernatural, Miraculous,**
Divinely Inspired writing in **existence** on earth

Please, if **you** are **hearing my voice** today
Please do not do that!

UNBELIEF is a Very Powerful thing

& **the more** you are **DETERMINED** in it
the **LESS** you will **BE ABLE**
to **See & Respond** to **the truth**

no matter HOW it is **Presented** - or **Proven** - to **you**

What you **don't want** – is **what** the last half of V.6 says

Mark 6:6(b) (NLT)

6 . . . Then Jesus went from village to village, teaching the people.

The Bible is clear – there **CAN come a time**
when ***“Jesus has left the Building”*** in your life

At **SOME POINT** - Jesus will **ALLOW you**
to **become so Hardened** in your **UNBELIEF**

that **you** will **no longer BE ABLE**
to **HEAR from him** - or **RESPOND to him**

Please - DO NOT let that happen in your life

Keep your **Heart** & your **Mind OPEN**
To WHO the **Bible** says **Jesus Christ IS**

& the **Gift of ETERNAL LIFE**
That he **Came to Give** - **ALL** who would **BELIEVE in Him**

Let's Pray