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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com. • This passage can be found in the Pew Bible, in the Old Testament on page 31.

The Father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"
– Mark 9:24, NLT

Study Section

What Makes Jesus Marvel?

It seems there are two things that make Jesus step back and say, "Wow!"

1. Those who believe when it's not expected they would.
2. Those who disbelieve when there's every reason they should.

The Consequences of Unbelief

1. The Limiting of Christ

Mark 6:5, NASB95 - And He could do no miracle there* [Genitive Case (not accusative) indicating a "moral decision"] except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.

***This statement does not mean that the people's unbelief limits the power of Christ; it means it limits the blessings from Christ.**

Matthew 13:58, ESV - And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief. [NOT because of His lack of power.]

2. The Loathing of Christ.

Mark 6:6a, ESV – ^{6a} And He marveled** because of their unbelief.



"Marveled" [Gk: θαυμάζω (thaumázō) lit., *to behold with energy*; here in Mark 6:6, it's an *imperfect* verb (rather than a *perfect* verb). A perfect tense verb would communicate a positive response; this imperfect tense communicates a negative *marveling*.

Mark 6:6, YLT - ⁶ ...and he loathed their unbelief.

Mark 6:6, TLB - ⁶ And he could hardly accept the fact that they wouldn't believe in him.

The people of Nazareth were shocked by His preaching, stumbled over His person, snubbed His power and were shocking in their unbelief. – Dr. Alan Carr

3. The Leaving of Christ.

Mark 6:6, NRSV - ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

Mark 6:6, YLT - ⁶ ...Then, he left them to go to the other villages, in a circle, teaching.

I feel there may come a time in a lost person's life when the Holy Spirit of God moves on; a man is never in a more perilous state than when the invitation of salvation is withdrawn.

– Dr. Roy Fish

Life Application Section

A. A word to those who believe:

What makes Jesus marvel most in your life: Belief or unbelief?

John 1:11–12, NLT - ¹¹ He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, He gave the right to become children of God.

B. A word to those who don't believe:

Here's why I believe:

"It all boils down to documentation—Who's Bible is true."

1. **History**, specifically, *fulfilled prophecy* proves the Word of God
2. **Archeology** proves the Word of God
3. **Paleography**—the significance of manuscript records and it's reliability.

Resource: Go to www.SouthReno.com, click on "resources", then click on "sermons," then, under "series" on the right hand side, click on "Tough Questions with Straight Answers", go to page 3 (at the bottom) and click on the sermon titled, "Is every other religion wrong?" Print out the listening notes and then listen to this important message.