

The Way of Jesus: Unboxing Jesus

Missy Carfield · Sunday, September 13, 2026

Scripture: Mark 6:1-6

Summary

When Nazareth thought they already had Jesus figured out — carpenter, neighbor, Mary's boy — their familiarity boxed Him in, and Mark 6:1-6 shows how unbelief can keep even the Son of God from being received for who He really is.

Overview

Missy opens with how people put us in boxes — and how far more costly it is when we put Jesus in one. Returning to Nazareth with His disciples, Jesus teaches in the synagogue of a tiny town where everyone knows Him. They are astonished at His wisdom and miracles, then offended: Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son? Familiarity becomes a customized box — as long as Jesus stays manageable, they can live with Him. But the Word of God incarnate no longer fits their categories, and they take offense. Jesus says a prophet is without honor in His hometown; He lays hands on only a few sick people and is amazed at their unbelief. Missy is clear: our faith is not a switch that forces God's hand, nor is God our puppet — hardened hearts close themselves off from what He would do. Circles of home, work, and friendship are places of influence; the question is whether something about Jesus still offends or embarrasses us. If Jesus is in a box, we are the ones being hurt. The invitation is not perfection but surrender: let Him out of the box and be Lord of your life.

Key points

- It matters how you respond to Jesus — do not relegate Him to a box
- Nazareth knew Jesus as carpenter and Mary's son; familiarity bred offense, not faith
- They customized a manageable Jesus; the real Jesus standing there no longer fit
- Hardened hearts shut themselves out of His work — God is not our puppet
- Your circles of influence are strategic; keeping Jesus "on the down low" boxes Him in
- If Jesus is in a box, you are the one being hurt — surrender, not perfection, is the way out

Memorable lines

"It matters how you respond to Jesus."

"They had customized a box for Jesus. And as long as he fit in that box, they could handle it."

"The Jesus that stood in front of them no longer fit into the box that they had Jesus in."

"God is not our puppet."

"If you have Jesus in a box right now, you are the one being hurt."

"It doesn't mean that you have to be perfect. What it does mean is you have to be surrendered."

Takeaway

Ask honestly this week: Have I regulated Jesus to a customized box I can manage? Where familiarity, comfort, or fear has boxed Him in — at home, work, or with friends — surrender again and let Him be Lord outside the box.

Source: Bay Point Church livestream / YouTube (auto captions)

<https://youtube.com/live/wzrsacNaNol>