

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: We are in Mark 6:1-13...

- Setting: ¹ Jesus went out from [Capernaum, where He had just raised a twelve-year-old girl back to life] and came into His hometown [of Nazareth]; and His disciples followed Him. // When Jesus began His ministry, He moved to Capernaum. The people loved His miracles "but took little or no interest in the Word of eternal life" (Kretzmann). So, Jesus returned to His hometown to offer them eternal life!
- 2. Too Familiar: ² When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon ["male sibling with at least one parent in common" (BW, Friberg)]? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him. ⁴ Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his

hometown and among his *own* relatives and in his *own* household." ⁵ And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And He wondered at their unbelief.

- a. <u>Sabbath Synagogue Word of God</u>: Jesus showed us what to do each Sat / Sun *gather to hear God's* word! <u>Dr. Luther</u>: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it" (Sm, Cat., Third Comm.).
- b. <u>Teaching</u>: Jesus had become known as a teacher, so the opportunity to teach was extended to Him.
- c. <u>Offense</u>: Though they were amazed, *they were too familiar with Jesus*, who grew up among them.
 <u>Therefore</u>, rather than gladly hear and believe what He said, *they became offended*. In other words, *they were unwilling to believe in Him and tried to discredit Him*.
 [<u>Dear Holy Spirit</u>, please remove every roadblock for us and others that prevents belief in Jesus!]
- Teaching / Training: And He was going around the villages teaching. // Jesus and His disciples traveled together. As Jesus taught, He was also training His disciples to do the same. Whenever we are instructed by others, let us learn <u>how</u> and <u>what</u> to teach. Then, let us seize our opportunities to share God's word!
- 4. Sending: ⁷ And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits;
 - a. <u>Pairs and Authority</u>: Jesus knew it was a HUGE step for His disciples to go and teach; therefore, <u>He gave them</u> <u>two great blessings</u>: ♥going in pairs – *for*

encouragement, AND having authority over demons – to show their teaching was from God! What about us? We show our teaching is from God when our teaching is in harmony with God's word!

- b. <u>Disciples Apostles</u>: Disciples are *followers*, *learners*. Apostles are *sent ones*. Therefore, *later in Mark 6*, when they returned to Jesus, *they are called apostles*.
- 5. Instructions:
 - a. <u>Supplies</u>: ⁸ and He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff-no bread, no bag, no money in their belt--⁹ but to wear sandals; and He added, "Do not put on two tunics." // If they would have taken supplies, they would have trusted in those supplies. <u>Instead</u>, with no supplies, they had no choice but to TRUST IN GOD!
 - i. <u>Where is your trust</u> in things or in God?
 - ii. <u>What consumes your time</u> temporal things or eternal things?
 - iii. <u>What are you building up more</u> your physical health or your spiritual health?
 - iv. <u>Who is the focus of your prayers</u> people with physical needs or people with spiritual needs?
 - b. Lodging: ¹⁰ And He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town." // Why?
 Don't waste time looking for a better place AND
 don't switch houses when you receive a better offer.
 - c. <u>Rejection</u>: ¹¹ "Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake the dust off the soles of your feet for a testimony against

them." // By doing so, *they indicated that the inhabitants of that place had* rejected God's word **AND** made themselves a target of God's horrible wrath. <u>Jesus explained</u>: **Matthew 10:15** "Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for *the* land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city."

- 6. Obedience: ¹² They went out and preached that *men* should repent. ¹³ And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them.
 - a. <u>Casting and Healing</u>: Those things were amazing *but did not save anyone*. Instead, God did those things through them *so their hearers would* **believe God's word**!
 - b. <u>Repentance</u>:
 - i. <u>First</u>, the Holy Spirit works through <u>God's word of</u> <u>Law</u> to show people their sin and helplessness. For those who are open to God, the HS works godly sorrow within them!
 - ii. <u>Second</u>, the Holy Spirit works through <u>God's word</u> <u>of Gospel</u> to show people who Jesus is and what He has done for our salvation. For those who have godly sorrow, the HS gives them the gift of faith by which they are trusting in Jesus for eternal life!

Let Us Pray: Dear HS, please lead many to repentance – before it is too late!

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