

Series: Who is this man?
Book of Mark
Mark 6:1-6
“A Nobody from Nowhere”
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
Pastor S.C. Brown
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We all love a good story, especially a story from rags to riches; from dust to glory; from the slums to the penthouse; a good story of someone from nowhere who becomes somebody great. Jack Ma, the English teacher who becomes one of the richest men in the world. Larry Bird, the Indiana country boy who leads the Boston Celtics to the NBA championship. Pele´, the poor Brazilian boy who had no money for a soccer ball. He used a sock with newspaper rolled up in it. He worked as a servant in a tea shop and later became the best football player in history.

And then there is Jesus Christ. What about his story?

Jesus was from Nazareth. He was a nobody from nowhere. Rumor was that his dad, Joseph wasn't his real dad. His mom, Mary, had run off and gotten pregnant by someone else while they were engaged. *Scandalous* wedding. He was a common laborer; a handyman who worked with wood and stone. Just a blue collar laborer in a small village.

But then one day he left home and decided he wanted to be a Bible teacher. That's when things got interesting.

[Prayer]

The first time that Jesus showed up in Nazareth after leaving home, things didn't go very well.

Luke 4:16-30

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." 20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, "**Today** this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." 22 And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23 And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." 24 And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. 25 But in

truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, 26 and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” 28 When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. 29 And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. 30 But passing through their midst, he went away.

They enjoyed listening to Jesus, even when he claimed this Messianic passage applied to him. But ELIJAH, ELISHA, JESUS. “Thinks he’s a prophet!” Jesus was saying to them, ‘Elijah was rejected in Israel. Elisha was rejected in Israel. Surely, you will reject me.’

They took such offense at him that they wanted to murder him. So, he headed off to do ministry around Galilee and now he has returned home again for a second opportunity to share with them.

Mark 6:1 He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 2 And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him?

How are such mighty works done by his hands? 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” **And they took offense at him.** 4 And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” 5 And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And he marveled because of their **unbelief**. And he went about among the villages teaching.

Why did they take offense at him? What was it that made them reject him? Don't they want their hometown boy to do well? Don't they want Nazareth to be 'put on the map'? Don't they want to support him?

Let's take a look at their questions and see if they give us some insight into why they are offended by him!

1. Where did this man get these things?
2. What is the wisdom given to him?
3. How are such mighty works done by his hands?
4. Is not this the carpenter, **the son of Mary** and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?

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- “Jesus doesn't have the right education. He hasn't even studied theology.”
 - “Jesus can't do miracles can he? He's just a handyman!”

- “Isn’t this that bastard child; that love-child of Mary?”

“It was a common practice among the Jews to use the father’s name, whether he were alive or dead. A man was called the son of his mother only when his father was unknown. [The] custom required that so long as the sons of an adulteress lived ‘a life pleasing to God, nothing insulting shall be said about his birth,’ but if he becomes an apostate, ‘his illegitimate birth shall be spoken of publicly and unsparingly.’” Hiebert/Stauffer

You see, Jesus doesn’t fit the mold.

Jesus isn’t the holy man type.

Jesus doesn’t fit the category.

“Doesn’t look like a prophet to us.”

“He’s not what I would choose in a Messiah.”

And they took offense at him. Why? What’s the real reason? Jesus tells us in verse 6. It’s **unbelief**.

Jesus marvels at their unbelief.

Jesus wasn’t born illegitimately. He was born miraculously.

Jesus wasn’t a nobody from nowhere. He was the king of the universe with skin on.

Jesus wasn’t a con-artist or a magician. He performed miracles by the power of God. He had power over nature. Power over the demons. Power over disease. Power over death. The evidence speaks for itself.

But those in Nazareth cannot see; they can't believe unless the Holy Spirit opens their eyes; opens their hearts. His own family didn't believe yet, except his Mom. We've already seen that in Mark chapter 3. After he dies and is resurrected, some do believe. At this time, his family {and his hometown} are still in unbelief.

Jesus was too familiar to them.

THE PEOPLE OF NAZARETH KNEW ALL ABOUT JESUS, BUT DIDN'T KNOW JESUS. THEY COULD TELL YOU ALL ABOUT HIM, BUT THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE IN HIM.

They wanted a Messiah that they imagined in their minds. Jesus didn't fit in their category.

They wanted Jesus to do thing FOR them, but they were embarrassed by him. Offended by him. Nazareth's reputation was at stake.

- We like a Jesus who does what we want. One we can control. "Jesus, do this for me." "Jesus, help me with this." "Jesus, don't you exist to serve my needs?" "Jesus, make my life good!" "Dance for me Jesus!"and if or when he doesn't do what we want or things don't work out like we EXPECTED, we have a crisis of belief and aren't sure if we want *this* Jesus.
- We want a Jesus that we can speak well of. We want, [like those in Nazareth] a Jesus that we can be

astonished by; as long as it is a Jesus without COST. **We want a Jesus that doesn't offend anyone, a Jesus that makes everyone like me.** We don't want a RADICAL Jesus. We want a tame Jesus; a safe Jesus.....What if Jesus calls you to speak up against homosexuality? What if Jesus ask you speak up for injustice? What if Jesus calls you back to the Mainland to live and work and share Jesus? What if Jesus tells you to sell all that you have and follow him?

We believe in that Jesus?

Jesus who calls us to be rejected, like he was. Not accepted, but rejected. People will be offended by him.

Mark was writing to christians in Rome under much persecution. Many of them knew what it was like to be rejected by spouse, family, relatives, and hometown. Many of you do.

If you follow Jesus, you're family will probably not like it. They might reject you. Your friends and the folks in your hometown may reject you. Your classmates may call you an idiot. Your boyfriend may break up with you. Your boss may fire you if you stand with Jesus.

But you stand with Jesus and he'll stand with you...for an eternity. Because he's not a nobody from nowhere. He's the king of kings and Lord of Lords.

From what we can see in the Bible, Jesus never went to Nazareth again. That town will forever be connected with the carpenter who claimed to be God in human flesh. Sadly, Jesus' hometown today is 70% muslim. Most of Nazareth has never believed in Jesus.

Some of you hear know a lot about Jesus but don't really know Jesus. Sure you may be able to tell us stories about him, tell some things he said....but you don't believe. You've not given your life to him.

Jesus never promises unlimited chances to believe. Just like he never went to Nazareth again, he may not pass by you again. Today may be the last chance you have!

[John 3:16](#) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

You'll have eternal life. In this world, you'll experience rejection, people will be offended, call you crazy, and maybe even try to kill you.

You might not get a better job, you might never own a house, your kids might not go to a great school and you might never be rich....

but your sins will be washed away, you will KNOW GOD, and have eternal life with him.