

STONE HARBOR

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When People Reject Jesus

Mark 6:1-6

INTRODUCTION

Jesus comes off of demonstrating His power over natural elements, demons, sickness and even death all indicating His identity as the King of the Kingdom of God, the God's Messiah, the anointed one who was to restore all things...

And our unfolding story about who Jesus is continues in Mark 6:1ff

[Read with upbeat excitement turning in verse 3 to suspicion and ending in offense]

So he comes home – but interestingly, not to a heroes welcome. Rather, He comes home to unbelief in Him as King and Christ – He comes home and people are offended by Him – “who does this guy think he is – making himself to be something more, when we know him to be just Jesus?”

Some believed and followed as disciples, many did not!

Such is our experience with Jesus as well. We walk on Sunday morning amongst a wonderful gathering of brothers and sisters who believe in Christ and are following Him. But most of us during the rest of the week, which is the majority of our time, interface with people who don't have much thought about Jesus at all. What do we do with the reality that people don't understand Jesus to be who He is?

1) Know That Many Will Sell Jesus SHORT

A. There is a Clear Precedent for Mankind Not Recognizing God's Ambassadors

It is nothing new that people see God's anointed as less than who God declares them to be. Let's remember a few examples:

1. Joseph – Sold into slavery by His brother's who rejected him as their punk kid brother who thought more of himself than he should when in reality He was God chosen man to save the people from ruin. A role which he ultimately served in spite of the lack of human recognition as God's chosen instrument.

2. David – Although he was God’s choice to be king over Israel, his father Jesse, when the priest Samuel was looking for the next king of Israel, assembled all his sons except David, his youngest, apparently thinking him more suited to care for the families sheep than to be considered by Samuel as a possibility to care for the nations people. See 1 Sam 16
3. Jeremiah – Rejected by his fellow citizens (11:18) and even his own family (12:6) in noted similarity to Jesus own rejection
4. As the saints of the NT look back on Jewish history they made the same observation. Listen to Jesus disciple Stephen as he boldly (and with the ultimate cost) preaches the gospel of Jesus to the Jews:

Acts 7:52"Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;

B. God Spoke in Prophecy of His Rejection

1. In The Words of Isaiah 53

Speaking of God’s Messiah who would come not as a conquering king but first as a suffering servant God through His prophet Isaiah spoke of Jesus...

[Isaiah 53:3](#) -- He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and **we did not esteem Him.**

Mark 6:4 "...A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own household."

2. In the Type & Antitype of The Stone Laid by God and Rejected by Men

Promised Stone:

Is 28:16

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD,
"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone,
a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed.
He who believes in it will not be disturbed.

Rejected Stone:

Type: Psalm 118:22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone.

Antitype is seen in Jesus’ He is the Stone that was laid by God as the cornerstone of God’s dwelling place and He was rejected. [Matt 21:42](#); [Mark 12:10, 11](#); [Luke 20:17](#); [Acts 4:11](#); [Eph 2:20](#); [1 Pet 2:7](#)

In Acts 3 Peter and John healed a lame beggar and then in Acts 4 they were questioned by the religious leaders of the day to which they responded in verse 10

“let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead--by this name this man stands here before you in good health. 11"He is the

STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS,
but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone.”

Even in our passage of Mark 6 we see that...

C. Many Rejected Him Even in His Home Town

1. This passage

He's Just Jesus the Son of Mary...

2. Earlier Passages in Mark

3:1-6 Where Jesus healed on the Sabbath while the religious leaders watched with intent to accuse Him (v.2) and eventually destroy Him (v.6)

3. Future Ultimate Rejection

“Crucify Him...Crucify Him.” Mat 27:22-23

And of course our place in all this is that...

D. Many still today see Him as less than He is

I saw Him as less than He is. I know Him now to be the son of God, God's promised seed of Abraham through whom all nations of the earth are blessed, the promised descendant of David who would be King of the Kingdom of God, my Savior, my Lord. But before, I thought of Him as a fictional character like Santa Clause, someone for the kids to believe in but certainly not the thinking adults.

I still have family members who regard Him as less than He is.

Sad but true. That leaves us with what we will do about this. Jesus questioned His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” After hearing them weigh in on the public opinion of His identity Jesus got very personal and asked, “But who do you say that I am?” Yes it is true that many will reject Jesus, but the more productive thing for us to focus on this morning is what are **we** are going to do with the fact that many reject Jesus? Often the effect this reality has on people is to let it negatively affect them, “My friend Bill doesn't believe in Jesus, I guess maybe I shouldn't either.” Brother's and sisters in Christ, in the face of popular rejection of Jesus let us go against the flow and give our selves to two productive responses...

2) **BELIEVE** Jesus Is Who He Has **DEMONSTRATED** Himself To Be

In the face of the unbelief of others, to believe in Jesus ourselves... it is helpful to:

A. Review Who God Has Revealed Jesus to Be

In Jesus, God has carried out a huge act of loving-kindness by breaking into time and space and making Himself known to our spiritually impaired minds.

- Philippians 2
- Examples from Mark

B. Revisit What Belief Is and Accept that God Wants Us to Respond to Him in Faith

- Doubting Thomas was given a flesh and blood visible to the natural eye appearing of the resurrected Jesus complete with holes in his hands from the

spikes that held Him to the cross. He would not but believe until his faltering faith had been shored up by visible miracle.

- [John 20:27](#) - Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."
- Thomas had a great privilege that is not extended to us all with the same degree of miraculous confirmation. Jesus in fact looked beyond those who saw His resurrected self to those who did not or would not, including us, and said to Thomas, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."
- Heb 11:1 faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- God wants us to respond to Him in faith – Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

C. Test the Trueness of our Faith (Let's not live long with incorrect view of faith)

- Faith calls forth actions based on your beliefs -- [James 2:17](#) Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. [James 2:26](#) For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.
- Obedience – Our obedience to the commands of Christ is indicative of the genuineness of our faith in and our love for God. Give examples:

D. How We Encourage Our Belief In Jesus

Do you find your faith less compelling than you wish it were? Fully recognizing that even the faith that we have is given to us by God, what is our part? We should...

1. Know God to the full extent we can. It would be unreasonable for anyone to believe in something that they have no knowledge of. Contrary to popular opinion, God is not looking for blind faith. He is looking for faith in Jesus based on His revelation of Himself to us in true history – a history of this revelation is recorded for us in the Bible.
 - a. Know God as He has revealed Himself in the Bible.
 - b. We are on this track right now as we listen with careful attention to who Jesus is in the gospel of *Mark*, keep it up!
 - c. We are on this track with the teachings of *Kit Culver*, keep that up too!
 - d. You are big boys and girls. Do what you know is necessary for you to know a God who has revealed Himself in history and given us a record of that in the Bible.
2. Respond to God with the Knowledge We Have
 - a. Remember that the strength of your faith is less important than the object of your faith. "I just don't know I believe enough to act."
 - i. Tim Keller Illustration

Even if some reject Jesus, let us believe in Him. A second action which most easily comes out of this text as a good response to Who Jesus has demonstrated Himself to be, is that we would...

3) FOLLOW Him!

A. Follow Jesus Like His Disciples Did

1. Jesus Disciples Followed Him -- Check out Mark 6:1b. We now follow not in physical travels but as ones who still give Him ear and the place of teacher, leader and Lord in our lives.

2. One Reason Why We Should Follow Him Too – John 6:65ff

In John 6 Jesus has told His disciples a hard truth

65 "... no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

and that same gospel records that

66 "As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

Their following Jesus faltered because they heard Him say something they didn't like. "That's not fair, I'd let man be determinative in his own coming to God! They were offended.

67 So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" 68 Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. 69 "We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

Why should we follow Jesus? We believe and have come to know that He is the Holy One of God.

B. Follow Jesus As His Disciples

1. We Must Be Who God Has Called Us to Be

i.e. we must be His disciples.

Kit: we must live into the reality of our new life in Christ.

We were not born again once back when we accepted Jesus, we are born again – people who have been given and still have a new life in Christ. We are restored from a broken relationship with God. People who were once distant but who have now been brought near to God by God in His Son Jesus Christ. We need less to do Christ-like things and more to be the Christ-like people we are.

If we are to be His Disciples then we must be:

- Learners/Students under the instruction of Jesus (our master teacher)
- Slaves in submission to the authority of Jesus
- Friends in obedience to the commands of Jesus

C. Follow Jesus' Example Continuing to Teach as He Taught.

[read v. 6]

One of the core values at Stone Harbor is cultivating the attitude of a learner. It will come across time and time again that we believe we need to pay careful attention to the truths of God in the pages of Scripture. We must sit ourselves at Jesus feet and learn from Him.

Another core value is the accurate teaching of God's word. Jesus commissioned us to make disciples, baptizing and teaching them to observe all that He commanded...

Paul clearly enunciated the need for the public teaching of God's word: [Romans 10:14](#) How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will

they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a **preacher**?

Please learn from me; learn from Becky, learn from people like Kit Culver, and Paul and Virginia Friesen. And as we follow Christ and you come to know Him better through our teaching and through **your** personal study of His word keeping us honest, then, get busy teaching others also. Yes, some will reject your teaching. That is just the way it is. I rejected the gospel when I first learned of it, Lori rejected it when she first heard of it. Then something changed. I know now that something was God's giving us ears to hear, God calling us to Himself at that time, His time.

So even if your teaching of Jesus is not accepted by all, just teach and then teach some more.

Conclusion

Many rejected and still Jesus, seeing Him as less than He is; but let us, believe in & follow Him!

How about you this morning? Has the unbelieving many pulled you away from faith in Jesus and a lifestyle of following Him? If so, consider that maybe the "many" who reject Jesus don't know truth as well as they assume they do. Maybe the "many" simply have not thought honestly and deeply enough about who Jesus has revealed Himself to be? Maybe the "many" have not as of yet been given eyes to see the spiritual reality that is real indeed but just not accessible to their senses damaged by their distance from God. Maybe it is not the acceptance of Jesus but the rejection of Him that is the foolishness we should avoided.

You have heard the expression, "There is safety in numbers?" Well this may be true if you are a fish in the sea, but it is not true for us. Jesus said in Mat 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14"For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Jesus family and home town gang had a limited understanding of Him and they were not open to see in Him more than they had already understood Him to be. They turned a deaf ear to the report of what He had done and they did not think about what that said about who He was. They took offense and rejected Him as God – the loss was theirs, the loss was great. May it not be any of ours. Let's pray!