

**Exegetical Notes, Mark 6:1-6**  
***“Without Honor”***

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**Mark 6:1-6**

**Verse 1**

*Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples.*

- Jesus is now back in his hometown, the place where he grew up, Nazareth. During his three year active ministry, his base of operation seems to have been Capernaum. So he is visiting home.

**Verse 2**

*When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles!”*

- On Saturday, Jesus went to the synagogue. There was probably only one synagogue in Nazareth. This would have been the synagogue that Jesus had attended as a boy.
- Visitors to a synagogue were almost always asked to bring greetings to the congregation and to share from the Scriptures if they so chose. Jesus seized this opportunity to teach, and his teaching amazed those who heard him.
- The crowd marvels at Jesus insight into the Scripture and his ability to teach from it. They also note that he is able to do miracles. In essence, they are very surprised and impressed.

**Verse 3**

*Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.*

- The people know who Jesus is. They know him as the carpenter whose family still lives in Nazareth. They remember him.

- But instead of being proud of one of their own, they are offended. They are upset because Jesus has gone so far from them, and they refuse to acknowledge that this is of God.

#### **Verse 4**

***Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor.”***

- Jesus notes that even an important person is treated with indifference at home among his own people. Though he may be great in the eyes of the world, at home he is nothing special to his family.

#### **Verse 5**

***He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.***

- The result of the attitude of the people was catastrophic. It prevented Jesus from doing all that he might have done on their behalf. It is hard to imagine that the full power of God can be diverted because of the attitude people hold. However, God does not force his blessing on those who are not open to receive it. Those who were open to God, though few, were healed. But many in Nazareth refused to acknowledge the truth about Jesus, who he was and what he could do. As a result they denied themselves God’s full blessing.

#### **Verse 6**

***And he was amazed at their lack of faith.***

- The people of Nazareth were amazed at Jesus’ wisdom and power (see verse 2). He was amazed that in light of his wisdom and power, the people still lacked faith. They simply refused to believe, even in light of overwhelming evidence.

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