

Sermon Based Small Group: Mark 6:1-6a

More. Jesus... The Tripping Point

Introduction

- Have you ever been pre-judged or done the same to someone else? What was the outcome?
- How far would you travel or what would you sacrifice to see Jesus?
- Have you ever had an experience like the returning Vietnam veteran? An experience where you expected a positive response and got the opposite? How did it feel?

Reviewing the Teaching

- Read Mark 6:1-6a.
- What stood out to you as a potentially significant takeaway in this week's teaching?
 - Why did it stand out?
 - How does it relate to you in your life situation now?
- There is tension in the air when Jesus returns home; what will His reception be like?
 - What happens when Jesus comes home?
 - People ask the right questions. What are some ways people could have answered their questions? How do they choose?
 - The people of Nazareth had the Old Testament. What answers to their questions would the Bible have given them? This is important. Sometimes we know the answers, but censor them out.
 - Talk about seeing miracles as either an interruption of the Divine order or a restoration. How does restoration tie into the Gospel as the proclamation of the kingdom of God?
 - The statements made about Jesus in verse 3 are true. How can people be completely right and completely wrong at the same time?
 - What **really** happened when Jesus comes home?
 - These six verses conclude the section of Mark that starts with the parable of the Sower (Mark 4). There are five responses to Jesus; the disciples, the demoniac, the woman, Jairus and the Nazarenes. Are the responses surprising? Why?
 - Verse 3 has an interesting word, "scandalizo". It is usually translated as to take offense. We get the word scandal from it. Read Isaiah 8:13-17. What insight does Isaiah give us into this word?
 - How might what happened when Jesus came home be happening right now when Jesus tries to make my heart his home?
- What are some of the differences between the synagogue and the temple? (The synagogue didn't have sacrifices or priests and was run by our equivalent of "The Chair of the Board")
- In verse two we read the word "astonished" (other translations will use a different word), what was so stunning about what was taking place?
- Do you find it difficult to admit *just* who Jesus is?

Digging Deeper

- In verse 2 the people of Nazareth are amazed or stunned. At the same time they struggle with two contrasts: what they know; and what they see and hear. What did they know? What did they see and hear? How are these a challenge? Would this challenge you?

- What did they know about Jesus? Think back. What do you know about Jesus before He began His ministry? Had Jesus shown Himself as the Messiah in His hometown before this? (See Luke 4:14 ff.)
 - What did they see and hear (v. 2)? How is this a conflict? What decision did they make?
 - Who had power over our world or the weather?
 - Who had power over the spirit world?
 - Who had power over our health?
 - Who had power over life and death?
 - How are we like the people of Nazareth?
 - We want God to be like us. How is that a good thing?
 - We are also glad that God is not like us? How does God's love, mercy and justice compare to ours?
- Pastor Mel told the story about his son chasing away the robbers. Have you ever had an experience like that? Think about this from the side of being the son. We tend to see life through a grid, a set of expectations. This mostly helps us. On the other hand, sometimes we need to be open to seeing something new. Is it true that God will change our perceptions as we grow in our faith?
 - Looking at Isaiah 8:13-17; Romans 9:33; and 1 Pet. 2:4-8, what do these verses say about tripping over Jesus?

Applying it to Life

- At what point does "More Jesus" seem like "Too Much Jesus"?
- Where are you using the excuse to validate your stumbling rather to confess and correct your stumbling?
- Who has an "All Access Pass" to your life? (**Note:** Leaders, please ask this one and spend some time on it)
- What do your fears expose about yourself?
- How is Jesus inviting you beyond your little kingdom and into a bigger role in his kingdom?
- In what ways are you feeling disappointed by Jesus?
- At the end of his sermon, Pastor Mel quoted a brave woman, "*OK, bring it on ... I believe that what you allow is what I need ... in some way it is for my good. I want **all** of you for all of me ... good or bad ... I don't want to miss out on any of your blessing.*" What happens so that we can get past the scandal, the tripping point?
- Read John 1:1. This is a very sad statement. On the other hand, Jesus came to "His own."

Prayer

- How is God's Word finding your heart?
- Continue to pray for specific needs in your group.
- Is there something else from the message that you would like to pray about?