



Mark 6:1-6
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DIGGING DEEPER

BLOCKING THE BLESSINGS • MARK 6:1-6

Jesus went out from Capernaum where He had ministered and done great works, and returned to His hometown. Nazareth was about 20 miles southwest of Capernaum. Jesus had lived there since His parents returned from Egypt to Palestine. On a Sabbath, Jesus taught those He had grown up with. The response of these people was very derogatory. They said that He was just a commoner like them, and questioned His birth as well by using the phrase “the Son of Mary.” This was an insult, for no Jew would use this statement even if one’s mother was a widow. These people were first astonished, but then this turned to being offended. How do **Romans 9:30-33** and **1 Peter 2:4-10** further define this concept and how the Jews reacted to Jesus?

There are only two places in the Gospels that say Jesus marveled or wondered in amazement: About the faith of the Roman centurion, a Gentile, where we would never expect to see it (**Matthew 8, Luke 7**); and here among Jews, His own people nonetheless, where one would have expected to find it. God looks not at our heritage, but at our hearts, and He will receive all who come to Him by faith in His Son. What are some things that Paul later wrote about how the Gentiles were included in the plan of salvation (**Ephesians 2:11-12**)?

Most Christians find that it is easier to witness to strangers than it is to those in your sphere of influence. There are several reasons for this.

1. Family and friends are those who know us the best. So many Christians refrain from spiritual conversation with them because they fear being labeled as hypocrites.
2. Family and friends are more comfortable giving Christians a sharp retort or an angry response.
3. Christians are fearful of the repercussions they may face as a result of sharing the gospel with those we are closest with. Unlike with a stranger who the Christian may see only once in his lifetime, those in our hometown are seen frequently. If a gospel conversation goes bad, the tension created in the ongoing relationship could become very uncomfortable.
4. Christians are fearful of doing anything to jeopardize a relationship they worked hard to cultivate. Sadly, this mindset brings to light an inescapable truth. Many who believe they are engaged in “friendship evangelism” care about their friendships and relationships more than they care for the eternal soul of their friend or family members.

Do you have a hard time sharing the gospel with those who know you best? It is not easy, but it is absolutely necessary. Who have you been neglecting to have a gospel conversation with that you need to be obedient to the prompting of King Jesus?

I. Hindering the Work

- a. Our L_____ View of J_____
- b. Our H_____ View of S_____
- c. Our U_____ View of the T_____

II. Remove the Obstacles

- a. R_____ Him for W_____ He Is
- b. R_____ of our P_____
- c. R_____ H_____