

Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

G . The Second Tour of Galilee

15. Jesus' 2nd Rejection in Nazareth

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #101
MK 6.1-6A (Parallel Text: MT 13.54-58)

¹ ^MJesus left there and went to his hometown, and his disciples continued to follow him. ² When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were being amazed.

"Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these incredible miracles he is performing?" ³ Isn't this the ^{MT}carpenter's son--^Mthe carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters all here with us?" And they were being offended by him.

(4) Jesus said to them, *"A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home."*

(5) He could not do many miracles there ^{MT}because of their unbelief, ^Mexcept lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. (6) He couldn't stop being amazed at their unbelief.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Nazareth in Galilee
Timeline	Sept or Oct. (Months 20 to 21, end of 2 nd Tour)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry
	G. The 2 nd Tour of Galilee
Title	15. Jesus' 2 nd Rejection at Nazareth

COMMENT:

After the series of six powerful miracles that we have observed over the last five readings, the strong unbelief that Jesus encountered at this hometown of Nazareth was quite shocking. This was the last time Jesus went back to his hometown, and the trip ended the same way his first visit (DAILY JESUS NEWS Reading #51) did a year earlier: with rejection by the townspeople because of entrenched unbelief.

The situation in Nazareth illustrates the the negative potential of the **"I command that it be done to you according to your faith"** principle. Mark wrote that **"he could do no miracle there."** Just to make sure that no one misunderstood that statement, Matthew included this critical phrase in his description: **"because of their unbelief."**

There was no lack of power or ability on Jesus' part holding back his ministry in Nazareth. However, by establishing the **"according to your faith"** principle, God has limited himself to working within the limits of our own faith. Therefore, the unbelief of the people in Nazareth limited Jesus' ability to work in their midst. The quality of our faith is a very important thing indeed.

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The people of Nazareth had an entire year to hear about Jesus' miraculous ministry since he last visited them. However the reports they heard about him confused them, because they were not received by faith. Even Jesus' family had been upset enough by what they were hearing to think he was out of his mind, and attempted to intervene and bring him home at the beginning of the 2nd Tour (DJN #090). These were the people who had more outward, sensory experience of Jesus than anyone else, yet they had touched him the least of all by faith. The power of their unbelief was enough to constantly amaze even Jesus!

In addition to illustrating the negative power of unbelief in Jesus, this text also gives us some vital information about Jesus' earthly life. Here we learn that Jesus was a carpenter--the son of a carpenter. There was little wood available in Israel, so the term described a builder who worked with the variety of materials available, including stone, plaster, brick, reeds, and wood.

Jesus was able to carve implements and tools from wood, form bricks and even certain types of sand-based concrete, as well as design houses and other structures. He was a wise master builder, who used his knowledge of construction to describe the way he would create the most important eternal structure of his life--the Church--as the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

The text also tells us about Jesus' family. He had at least four half-brothers and two half-sisters. Mark quotes the Nazarenes speaking of Jesus' "sisters," meaning at least two, and there were probably more. Jesus was therefore the oldest of at least seven children. It is interesting to note that two of Jesus' Twelve apostles shared names in common with his earthly brothers: Judas, and Simon. The importance of the name "Judas" for Jesus is obvious.

APPLICATION:

Looking at Jesus through natural eyes prevented the people in Nazareth from believing in him as the Son of God, in spite of the evidence of his Spirit-anointed, powerful ministry. That unbelief had powerful consequences.

How do you struggle with your faith in Jesus?

Does your faith limit Jesus' work in your life? How will you lean on his grace in your time of weakness?