

November 20/21, 2004

Study Questions

The Good News About Jesus According to Mark

Pursuing Jesus

Mark 6:1-13

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Opening Discussion

1. What is the difference between *knowing about* Jesus and *knowing* Jesus?
2. What would you expect to find in the life of someone who is pursuing Jesus?
3. Why do some Christians seem to be still searching for something that will satisfy? Is it possible these people have mistaken *knowing about* Jesus for *knowing* Jesus? Why or why not?

Bible Study

1. Review what Jesus did in Mark 4:35-5:43. What was Jesus able to do for those who came to Him?
2. Read Mark 6:1-6. What would it be like for Jesus to return to His hometown? Try to imagine the first 30 years of His life growing up in Nazareth as a boy and then as a carpenter.
3. Why was it hard for the people of Jesus' hometown to believe Jesus was who He said He was? How hard might it be for you to believe that your next door neighbor was really 'God in the flesh'? How did this prevent the people of Jesus' hometown from experiencing His power in their lives?
4. What did Jesus mean in verse Mark 6:4? Is it possible that people in our culture get so religious they can't really see Jesus for who He is? Explain.
5. When Mark states in 6:5 that Jesus "could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them," he was referring to the fact that the people didn't come to Jesus. They didn't ask because they didn't believe. How might these peoples lives have been changed for the good had they believed?

Compare with Jesus' words in Matthew 7:7-11. What prevents people from asking? What does unbelief cost us?

6. Is it possible that we can become so familiar with Jesus that we sometimes fail to recognize His power in our lives? If we truly see Jesus as the God who can calm the storm, cast out the demons, heal the sick and raise the dead, why would we not trust Him with the problems and struggles of our lives? Do our daily lives reflect our belief that we are totally dependent upon Jesus?

7. Read Mark 6:7-13. What did Jesus call the twelve to do? What was absolutely necessary to accomplish their mission? What is the contrast between the twelve and Jesus' friends and family in his hometown? (See also Mark 3:35) What allowed the twelve to not only experience Jesus' power *in* their lives but also *through* their lives?

Application

1. Based on this text (Mark 6:1-13), what does it mean to *pursue* Jesus as opposed to just *knowing about* Jesus? What are the marks or signs of someone who is pursuing Jesus?

2. List three specific things you are trusting Jesus to do *in* your life or *through* your life that could not be done apart from Him. What difference does Jesus *really* make in your daily life?

3. What are some specific things you can do to make sure you don't become so familiar with Jesus that you lose sight of who He really is and what He can do in and through you?