

Mark - Chapter 6 – Part 1

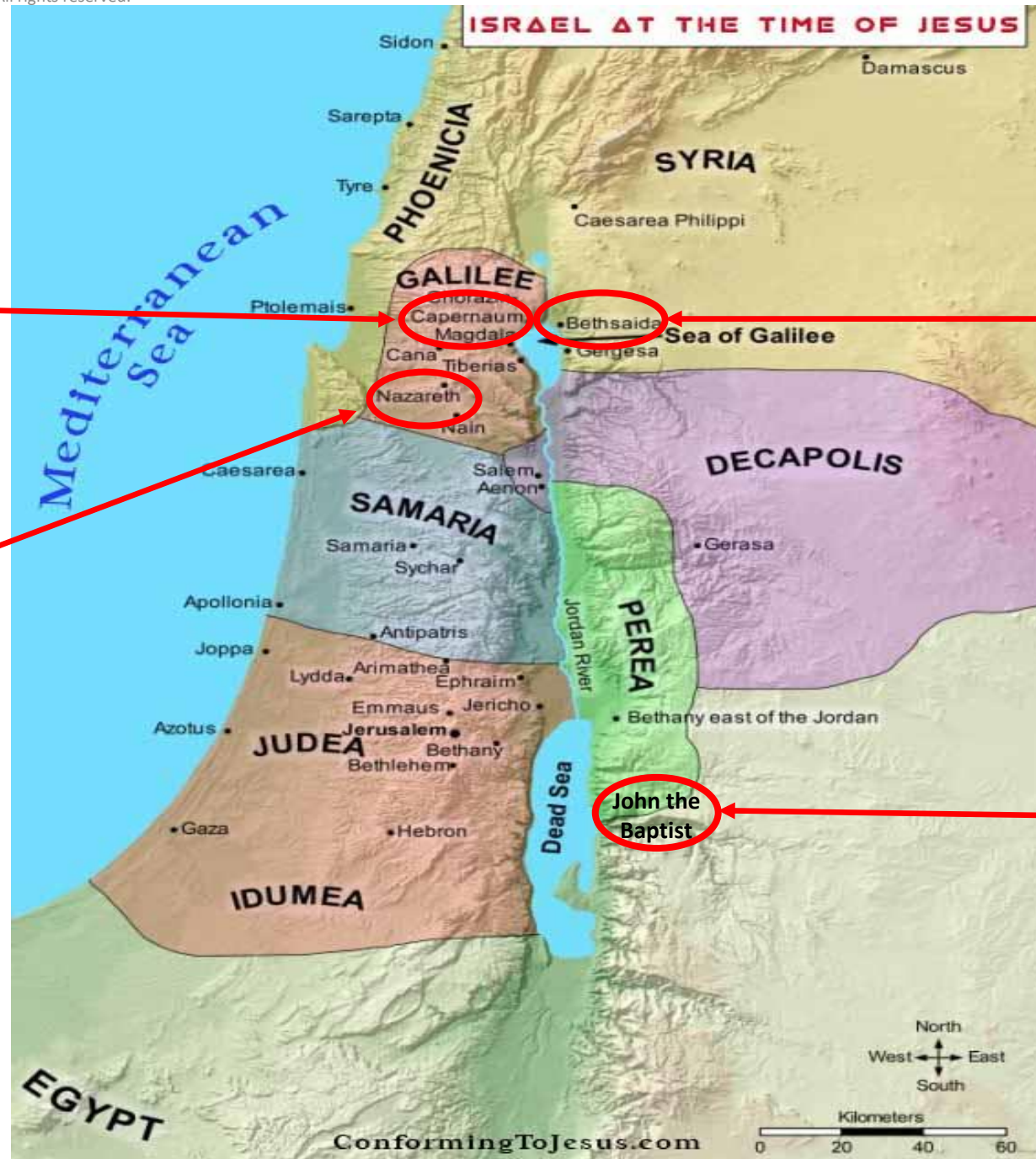
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Mark Chapter 6

Background & Context

- In Chapters 1-5, Jesus has demonstrated that He is God and called people to:
 - **Listen to His Word & Share it with others** (Parables of Chpt 4),&
 - **Trust Him** (Miracles of Chapter 5).
- After performing many of His most significant miracles over the period of a few days in Capernaum and Galilee, the crowds were large and enthusiastic, despite the open hostility of the Pharisees and Scribes who accused Him of having His power from Satan, and who were plotting to kill Him.
- Jesus now returns to His hometown of Nazareth to demonstrate why people don't see and believe. He teaches that **lack of repentance is the problem**, and it's not a problem of the intellect, but a problem of the heart.

ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS



Chapter 6 begins with Jesus leaving Capernaum

Feeding of the 5,000

Nazareth
Jesus returns to His hometown of Nazareth
 (where Mary & Joseph came after leaving Bethlehem to go to Egypt until the death of Herod the Great – pop. of 500, 25 miles from Capernaum)

John the Baptist was beheaded in the Palace of Herod by the Dead Sea at Machaerus

(Mark 6: 1-6)

Jesus Rejected in Nazareth

- Jesus returns to his hometown of Nazareth for the second time in His ministry and preached in the synagogue (the first time He went to Nazareth was shortly after the temptations, **Luke 4:16-30 (read)**).
- Like all people in Mark so far, **they acknowledge His wisdom and power** (“astonished”), and had surely heard of the many miracles He had performed, **but they questioned the source of His authority**.
- Their conclusion is close to that of the scribes (rejected Him because of pre-conceived notions - He was only an ordinary man, the son of a carpenter). If we were reluctant to accept Mark’s grouping of the rejection of the scribes with the rejection of His family (Chapter 3 sandwich passage), we cannot avoid doing so now.

(Mark 6: 1-6)

Jesus Rejected in Nazareth

- In saying “a **prophet** is not without honour except in his own country” (**Deut. 18:15**; , but that **those who reject the revelation they are given will get no more (Mark 4:24-25). His power seems to be revealed in relation to people’s faith.**
- Central point is “**UNBELIEF**” led to divine judgement of no miracles (in contrast to Jairus’ faith in the previous passage); The principle is, **if you reject Jesus, He will reject you** (“same as shake the dust off your feet”). (**Wrath of Abandonment** – Rom. 1:18-32; **Prov. 1:24-31**; Matt22). (**familiarity breeds contempt** – pride/jealousy). They rejected everything He said because of their **pre-conceived notions** – “just a carpenter, no seminary training, etc.”. **We must be careful not to do this. God sometimes comes in a form we don’t expect.**
- In a familiar pattern, **Jesus leaves those who have rejected Him** and goes elsewhere. Israel has rejected their Messiah (again). Jesus was “amazed” at their unbelief.
- The fact that Jesus could do no miracles there (v5) doesn’t mean His power was limited. (
- This takes place in front of the disciples (v1) in preparation for their first mission (v7-13) **to teach them and us to expect rejection. Matt. 10:24-25**
- What happened to Jesus happened to all the prophets and martyrs throughout history, and we must be ready for rejection and persecution too (reason for this is **John 3:19-20**).

Luke Chapter 4

Parallel Passage

- Jesus compare the unbelief of the people of Nazareth to the people in the days of Elisha who did not believe.
- The Bible is full of stories of people who chose to not believe and received the wrath and judgement of God.
- Luke says the people actually tried to kill Jesus by throwing Him off a hill, but Jesus could not be touched.
- In Mark 3, [Jesus's family came to see him](#), but Jesus declares the ones who follow the will of the Father are his brothers and sisters. After the parables of the kingdom (Mark 4, Matt 13), Jesus's hometown (and extended family) rejects him.
- [LUMO-GOSPEL OF LUKE CHAPTER 4:14-30 – YouTube](#)

Jesus was Considered a Prophet by Everyone, except His Hometown

- Mark 6:15 – “some who were saying He was a **prophet**”
- Mark 8:28 - Who do men say that I am? So they answered, “John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the **prophets.**”
- Luke 7:16 - “**A great prophet** has risen up among us”; and, “God has visited His people.”
- Luke 24:19 – Road to Emmaus - “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who **was a Prophet mighty in deed and word** before God and all the people,
- Unbelief blinds the truth from people & prevents God’s supernatural power from being revealed.

(Mark 6: 7-13)

Sending out “**The Twelve**”

- Turning point– not until now, after a time of teaching (Chapter 4) and faith building (Chapter 5 miracles) were the disciples ready to go on their own to:
 1. **Preach Repentance – message of Salvation**
 2. **Overcome Satan and** (Luke 9:1 “gave them power and authority over **ALL DEMONS**”)
 3. **Heal people.** (Matt. 10:8 says “**to raise the dead**”)
- Sending out 12 ordinary men to take on the spiritual leadership role of Israel (symbolic - 12 tribes of Israel- **Luke 22:30**) was a **judgement** against the religious leaders.

(Mark 6: 7-13)

Sending out “The Twelve”

- Context is important – the sending of the disciples comes between the rejection by Nazareth and the rejection by Herod, and the account of the disciple’s mission is sandwiched around the detailed account of Herod and John the Baptist. Why?
 1. To teach them and us about rejection.
 2. To reveal that Herod was aware of Jesus, bringing Him one step closer to the Cross.
- Since Herod thought that Jesus was John resurrected, and since John was the last of the Old Testament prophets while the Apostles were the first of the New Testament prophets, **it is marking a transition.**
- Sent two-by-two, a wise principal (Eccl. 4:9-12) also mandatory for bearing witness (Num 35: 30; Deut. 17:6; 19:15). In Acts, disciples were commonly sent in twos – Acts 8:14; 9:38; 13:2-3

(Mark 6: 7-13)

Sending out the Twelve

• Given Authority over Unclean Spirits

- This was essential if they were to succeed. The authority they were given was Jesus' authority (Mark 1:27), so rejecting them was as serious as rejecting Jesus.
- Not only did they have power “over all demons” (Luke 9:1), but also to heal the sick and raise the dead (Matthew 10:8; Mark 6:13).
- **Miracles were for the purpose of validating the message.** The nature of the miracles (given that Jesus could have demonstrated His divine power in any way He chose) were primarily delivered to the sick and suffering, reflecting His compassion.

• Take Nothing but a Staff & Sandals (no Bread, Bag or Money & only 1 Tunic)

- Jesus teaches them to be completely dependent on Him to provide for their needs and the importance of Trusting Him. (“Do not worry, saying, What shall we eat?...What shall we wear.” Matt 6:31-33)
- Their total dependency and sense of urgency **strongly parallels the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt** (maybe to mark a new era in redemption) where God commands them to eat the Passover meal “with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in hand.” (Ex 12:11 – **symbol of a new exodus and gathering of a new nation**; Deut. 8:4).
- These strict stipulations were only temporary to teach them utter dependence, and does not represent a permanent vow of poverty or unpreparedness. In **Luke 22:35-37**, Jesus clarifies this and indicates we should plan wisely for the future.

Supplies for the Road

Luke 22:35-37

- ³⁵ And He said to them, “When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?”
- So they said, “Nothing.”
- ³⁶ Then He said to them, “**But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.** ³⁷ For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: ‘And He was numbered with the transgressors.’ For the things concerning Me have an end.”

How to Respond to Acceptance & Rejection

- **Remain with those who accept you** (Mark 6:10; 3:14, 34; 4:11, 25, 34)
 - “In whatever place you enter a house, stay there until you depart from that place.”
 - Once they settled in someone’s house, do not accept better offers - it teaches contentment and loyalty and avoids seeking financial gains from people seeking their wisdom and power. Would also insult host and bring disrepute to gospel. (1 Tim. 6:6-10; Phil 4: 11-13)
- **Warn & Reject those who reject the Gospel** (Mark 1:38, 3:7, 29, 33; 4:3, 9, 12, 23, 24, 25, 34; 5: 18, 36)
 - “shake the dust under your feet as a testimony against them” - Jews shook the defiling dust of Gentile countries off their feet when they returned to the borders of Israel, so for the apostles to do this was an **act of judgement** and warning to those who have been exposed to the truth of salvation and knowingly reject it.
 - Jesus explains this principle in the Sermon on the Mount “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under your feet. And turn and tear you in pieces.” (Matt 7: 6)
- **Obedience & Courage**
 - Disciples obeyed Jesus with courage and went out preaching repentance in spite of the dangerous opposition they would face without Jesus being with them. “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves...But beware of men, for they will hand you over to the courts and scourge you in their synagogues” (Matt 10:16-25) ¹²

How to Respond to Acceptance & Rejection

- **Anointing With Oil Many Sick and Healing Them**

- Jesus is never recorded anointing the sick with oil, but the apostles did to symbolize God's presence and authority, and not their own, as was done in the Old Testament (Ex. 30:22-33; 1 Sam. 16: 13)

- **Accountable for Results (6:30)**

- After the break to focus on Herod, the apostles return (possibly many weeks or months later) and reported to Jesus "all that they had done and taught". We too will all have to appear before Jesus and give an account (1 Peter 5:4; **Rom 14: 11-13**)

- These instructions and power given to the apostles are not a blueprint for missions in the post-apostolic age, but serve to teach us to:

- **Proclaim the gospel with the Authority of the Word & the Holy Spirit**
- **Trust Jesus and be prepared to sacrifice, and**
- **Be prepared for its rejection.**

Mark 6: 14-29

John the Baptist Beheaded

- Between the sending of the 12 disciples in v.7-13 and their return in V.30 (their mission could have lasted up to 9 months), Mark takes an unusual opportunity to fill in the gap in time with a **flashback**, describing the death of John the Baptist in dramatic, horrifying detail.
- **This story serves many significant purposes:**
 - To explain Herod's (Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great) reaction to the 12's teaching
 - To show the seriousness of lack of repentance and rejecting Jesus
 - Demonstrates the different soils taught in the Parable of the Sower
 - Foreshadows the Cross
 - Compares the lives of Jesus and John
 - Contrasts the weakness of the earthly king with the strength of the Heavenly King
 - The implied question in v. 1-13, of **Why Don't People See Who Jesus is?** is answered.

Mark 6: 14-29

John the Baptist Beheaded

- Herod's confusion as to who Jesus is, speaks to the theme "**Who am I**" (i.e. is He John, Elijah, a prophet, Christ)
- Herod, like the others, **could not see who Jesus was because he would not REPENT**. ("seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand" Mark 4: 11)
- John confronted Herod with the sin of marriage to his brother's wife (Lev. 18:16; 20:21), and Herod acknowledged that John was righteous and holy, and even feared John, thereby making Herod appear to be "good soil" in comparison to his wife Herodias.
- However the comparison between Herod and his wife is an **amazing illustration of the Parable of the Sower**, revealing the difference between soil on the "Path" (Herodias) and soil on "rocky ground" (Herod).
- Herod's birthday was his **opportunity to repent publicly (v.21)**, but this shows that Herod's unwillingness to repent and listen to John and end his marriage became his undoing. Instead, Herod's pride, drunkenness, and sexual lust made him fear his guests (v26) more than God.
- This apparently bizarre, soap-opera-sounding flashback story of John's death clearly had very deep meaning and purpose for being placed in this Chapter by Mark.

Mark 6: 14-29

John the Baptist Beheaded

- Mark implies a **comparison** between **John the Baptist and Jesus**.
 - Both preached the gospel of repentance from sin and faith in the Messiah,
 - Both were hated by those with no direct power (v. 19, not the Kings that hated them),
 - Both died violent deaths by those who knew their innocence, but feared men more than God,
 - Both were taken and buried by friends,
 - Both were killed because of men's refusal to repent
 - John's detailed account of his death appears to be a foreshadow of the Cross to come.
- Mark also implies a **contrast** between **Herod and Jesus**.
 - Mark calls Herod a King, who sends people out to do things and talks of giving away his "kingdom".
 - Mark has shown so far in this gospel that while **Jesus is a rejected preacher, He is a Mighty King**. While **Herod, the apparently powerful "king", is a weak king**, prideful, a drunkard, and under the power of his wife and his servants.