

MARK

Mark 6:1-6
Wk 19

General: Mk 6:1-6

- Pastor Chip used the phrase “the tip of the iceberg” to illustrate how quickly we make judgments based only on what we can see. Where are we most prone to assume we know the whole story when we’re really only seeing a small part of it?
- Pastor Chip mentioned that Mark 6 is a chapter many Christians can easily read right through. Why do you think we’re more likely to pay attention to the dramatic moments in Scripture and overlook the quieter passages? What might we miss when we do that?
- Jesus returns to Nazareth, the place where people had watched Him grow up. How might knowing someone for a long time make it harder to recognize something new about them?
- In verse 3, the people ask: “Is not this the carpenter...?” Jesus didn’t come from the religious résumé or background they might have expected. Why are we often tempted to judge someone’s significance by credentials, status, or familiarity?
- They were offended because what they saw didn't fit what they knew or understood. What is it about Jesus that people today still find difficult, disruptive, or even offensive?
- How can familiarity with Jesus, Scripture, church, or Christian language gradually dull our sense of wonder or responsiveness?
- What is the difference between living expectantly toward God and assuming that faith guarantees the particular outcome we want?
- Verse 6 says Jesus “marveled because of their unbelief.” If you looked honestly at your own posture toward Jesus right now, where would He find genuine expectation? Where might He find familiarity or unbelief?

Take Home 1: Familiarity with Jesus can become so dangerous that we stop letting Jesus challenge us and can even start using our understanding of Jesus to validate us (Mk. 6:3)

- What's the difference between following a Jesus who continually forms and confronts us, and creating a version of Jesus who mostly agrees with us?
- What happens when Jesus refuses to fit neatly inside the boxes or different categories we've created for Him (i.e., morally, politically, economically, etc.)?
- If two Christians with very different convictions can both say, "Jesus agrees with me," how do we discern whether we're actually being shaped by Jesus or simply projecting ourselves onto Him?
- Pastor Chip quoted Mr. Beaver from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*—that Aslan is not "safe," but he is good. Do we actually want a Jesus who is good, or do we sometimes prefer a Jesus who is manageable? What's the difference?

Take Home 2: Don't despise the hidden years and don't assume that ordinary is insignificant (Mk. 6:3a)

- Pastor Chip said, "God does some of His most important work in us before He does anything significant through us." Why can seasons of hiddenness or ordinary faithfulness be so difficult to value while we're living in them?
- Where might you be overlooking what God is forming in you because you're waiting for something bigger, more visible, or more exciting to happen?
- What part of following Jesus currently feels costly, inconvenient, or unspectacular? How might God be using that very thing to form you?

Take Home 3: The tragedy is when we fail to realize that Jesus has the power, but we lack the expectation (Mk. 6:5)

- Mark says Jesus "could do no mighty work there" and was amazed at their unbelief. Does that mean our faith somehow controls or limits God's power? If not, what is Mark actually warning us about?
- Where can past disappointment or unanswered prayer quietly teach us to expect less from God?
- Where have you begun assuming, "This is just how things are," instead of remaining open to what Jesus may still be able to do?