



Today, we continue our series, “Unreasonable God.” Remember, we’ve named this series such because God has gone above and beyond in giving us Jesus. That very action is something beyond what any of us deserve; that’s why we call it grace. Additionally, this “Unreasonable God” has given us a mission. He’s called us to follow Him in every area of our lives, which often means we’re called to obedience in ways that seem unreasonable or hard to imagine. Today, we’re going to talk about “Unreasonable Unbelief.”

Key Passage: Mark 6:1-6

Discussion Questions:

1. What significance does Jesus' hometown play in understanding the setting of today's passage? Why did the people of Nazareth take offense at Jesus?

Jesus' hometown was Nazareth. This setting is significant because it illustrates the challenge Jesus faced in being recognized as the Son of God by those who had known Him as an ordinary boy. This familiarity with Him contributed to their unbelief.

Undoubtedly, many in Nazareth thought, “How can this be the same guy we knew way back when?”

They took offense because they saw Jesus as one of them, someone who had grown up in Nazareth. Sure, they were astonished at Jesus' teaching and miracles, but they were also skeptical. Their skepticism made them question Jesus' wisdom and how He could perform miracles. After all, they knew Him as the carpenter's son, the brother of familiar siblings. Sadly, their familiarity with Him led them to doubt His authority, viewing His claims as presumptuous.

2. How does the reaction of the people of Nazareth compare to the response Jesus received in other places, like Capernaum?

In Capernaum, people responded with faith and enthusiasm, crowding around Jesus for healing and teaching. In contrast, Nazareth responded with skepticism and offense, showing little faith and, therefore, seeing fewer miracles.

3. What does our passage say about Jesus' response to the unbelief of the people in Nazareth?

Jesus marvels at their unbelief, and Mark adds, “And he could do no mighty work there except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.”

Clarity is essential here – it's not that Jesus' power to do anything was limited, but the people's faith was limited. There were a few who came in faith to be healed, and Jesus did heal them. The overall

response in Nazareth was the opposite of Capernaum, where Jesus could hardly walk because so many people crowded around Him. One city responded with faith; the other responded with doubt. One saw many miracles; the other saw only a few. Dr. John MacArthur says, "Miracles belonged among those who were ready to believe." To our knowledge, Jesus never returned to Nazareth. It was a place void of faith.

What a great challenge towards faith this is for us:

- Will I be a person who responds with faith or doubt in what Jesus can do?
- Will my family respond with faith or doubt in what Jesus can do?
- Will our church respond with faith or doubt in what Jesus can do?

4. What warning does this passage give to people familiar with Jesus?

The passage warns that mere familiarity with Jesus and religious knowledge can lead to complacency or disbelief. One can know about Jesus without truly knowing Him or having genuine faith, as demonstrated by the people of Nazareth. People can intellectually know about Jesus and still miss Jesus.

5. How does this passage challenge us to examine our faith? In what ways could God be calling us to faith today?

It challenges individuals to consider whether they practice a surface-level faith or actively trust and obey Jesus. It invites self-reflection on whether familiarity has dulled their belief and reliance on Jesus.

I wonder if Jesus is looking at our lives today and marveling at our unbelief.

I wonder if He ever thinks, "I've saved you from hell. I've changed your life. I've provided for your every need, and yet you still don't believe?"

Is Jesus calling you to have faith that He'll take care of you? That He'll provide for you?

Is Jesus calling you to saving faith in Him for the first time?

6. What are some ways a person can respond to God's call to faith, according to the text?

Responding to God's call to faith may involve trusting in His provision, stepping into obedience, or rejecting doubts. Today's passage encourages us to shift from religion to active, life-changing faith that believes in Jesus' power to transform lives.

What are you missing out on because of unbelief in your life?

7. What about this study has challenged you most? What's your biggest takeaway?