

# Study of the Gospel of Mark

## Chapter 6 (Part 1)

After spending some more time in Capurnaum, Jesus departs from there to His home town of Nazareth. We find the opening account of Jesus' rejection at Nazareth recorded in all three synoptic Gospels, that is Matthew (13:53-58), Mark (6:1-6), and Luke (4:16-30). Matthew and Luke are very similar in their content and placement of this account, while Luke is more detailed and places this account very early in Jesus' ministry. Some have taken this to indicate that the Gospels have recorded two separate visits of Jesus to Nazareth with Luke being early and Matthew and Mark being later.

1. What might indicate that all three Gospels are recording the same visit?

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What might indicate that they record different visits of Jesus to Nazareth?

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2. Jesus grew up in Nazareth and the people of that town knew Him and his family. His mother Mary, and His brothers James, Joses (Joseph), Judas and Simon are mentioned by name in this account, as well as reference to His sisters. The Roman Catholic Church still teaches the "ever virginity" of Mary, that is, that Mary never had sexual relations and bore no children other than Jesus. What do we learn about such a tradition from these verses? (Compare also Mark 3:31; John 7:3-10; and Acts 1:14)

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3. Luke tells us that Jesus clearly declared Himself to be the Messiah (see Luke 4:17-21). Why do you think the people of Nazareth had a hard time accepting this fact? How does this connect with Jesus' words in verse 4: "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household"?

**Note:** Even Jesus' own brothers did not believe He was the Savior until after His resurrection (see John 7:3-10; and Acts 1:14).

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4. The opening verse of this chapter tells us that Jesus' disciples followed Him to Nazareth. They saw first hand as the people there rejected Jesus as the Savior. Following this we are told that Jesus sent His disciples out to preach. What important lesson do you think the disciples learned in Nazareth that would be helpful as they began their preaching ministry, both now and after Jesus ascension into heaven? (See especially Mark 6:11)

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5. Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs and without anything for their journey. What do you think the intent of Jesus was with this practice? How would that be beneficial?

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6. We read that Jesus gave His disciples the ability to heal and cast out demons. What purpose did such miracles serve in connection with their preaching? (See Mark 16:15-20; Hebrews 2:2-4)

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7. The account of the death of John the Baptist is a sad account which reveals the Spiritual depravity of Herod and his family. This section reveals Herod had no regard for God and His laws. List the commandments which were broken in Mark 6:14-29:

Commandment	Verse (s)
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8. John would have been about 32 years old when he was put to death by Herod. How sad this seems! Yet we can be sure that John knew Jesus as His Savior and trusted in Him for the forgiveness of his sins (John 1:29; Matthew 3:14). John had prepared the way for Jesus and trusted in Him for salvation, and so John's death was not a tragic event at all. Because Herod rejected Jesus as the Savior, his death would be a tragedy (Luke 23:7-11).