



A Wheat Street Bible Study

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“WE ARE WHEAT STREET!”

Do You Believe What You See: From Human Eyes to God’s Power Mark 6:1-6

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

6 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. **2** On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! **3** Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. **4** Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” **5** And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. **6** And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

At the source of tension in this passage is how we see God and how we see God work through people. What the problem is here is that we see people and we make them gods and or as we see God working through them we don’t see that it is God and not them. Two things happen here.

1. We limit them and what they are empowered to do and be by the power of God and we want to put them their place
2. We don’t see that God is the one who deserves the praise and credit therefore we get stuck on the person and not the power of God. In essence we can miss God because we are stuck on who God is working through and not who is actually doing the work.

It is Hard to Go Back Home

It is hard to go back home and be who you have become because people tend to see who you were. It is hard for family and friends who knew you to see the new you. As we mature and grow in Christ we have to see ourselves as God sees us and not let how people see us entrap us and limit who we are to be and what we are to do.

People’s assessment of us can limit us. What people think about us matters. We say it doesn’t but it does. We want people to like us, esteem us, understand us and support us. We want people to cheer us on and celebrate who are and who we are becoming. The problem is that sometimes people can’t do this and we can become constrained and confused as to who we should be or what we should be doing as result of how people react to us. We get bothered by their reaction and as result we second guess our action(s) in relationship to their reactions. When people question how we see

ourselves we tend to question with them. We begin to doubt and second guess ourselves.

In this passage Jesus is going back to his hometown and what most of the people see is the little boy raised by Mary and Joseph.

The real issue here is how does Jesus see himself?

Can he embrace who he is and what God has called him to do at this point in his journey?

At every major point in our lives we are struggling with our past, present and future. We are connected to who we were while trying to become who we are called to be at this point in our lives. This creates a dynamic tension in our lives and the question is how do we resolve it?

Mark 6:1-2

6 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. **2** On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands!"

Jesus went back home. This is important and shouldn't be overlooked. We have to be willing to go back and look at our past. We shouldn't deny where we came from because where we came from is a critical part of our identity. It is important to go back and look back and to reflect on how you got to where you are and what God was doing in and through you back in the day. Our testimony is a witness to the power of God in our lives. We should never be ashamed of where we came from and what we have been through.

When Jesus goes back he is acting like Jesus. He is doing his new thing in an old place. He goes back teaching and healing. Right away he does what he is called to do and be. He is not affected by how the people are looking at him and talking about him. He is doing what he is called to do today.

What we learn from this is that when you go back home don't let people put you back in that old box. When we go home people start calling us our childhood nick name as if we haven't grown up. Our elders treat us like we are children. They say, "Look at little..." and you are sixty years old. We have to resist their temptation to look at us from the past. We do this by acting and doing what we are called to do now. We have to "do us!"

When Jesus does what he is called to do and be the folk were amazed. While he was being respectful and doing his thing this caused them to rethink who he was. They began to see him differently because he was acting differently. He wasn't just acting but rather it was out of him understanding who he was that he was doing what he was doing.

It is so important for you to understand who you are and not give anyone the power to define you. Jesus defined himself. Because he knew who he was he would be able to withstand people's judgement of him and walk in the power and authority God had given him.

When you don't know who you are someone will step in and try to put you in your place. When you know who you are then no one can tell you because as you have listened to God you have told yourself. You have to constantly talk to yourself and tell you who you are. You are not what people think you but rather you are who God made you! This is a constant battle. We are always thinking ourselves in conversation with what we think people think about us. First off, we don't know what people are thinking (unless they tell us and then that might be a lie). Second, we can't control what others think. Third, what we can do is control how we think of ourselves.

There is also a point of confusion in this opening passage. The people see God working through Jesus and they get confused. Now this gets a little tricky. While Jesus is God the folk see a human-being doing what Jesus is doing. They are trying to link the acts of Jesus with the human-being they knew as Joseph and Mary's boy. What they are witnessing is the power of God at work. For us we have to understand that what we do in our lives is not about who we are but rather it is about who God is and how God works through us. When we see the God in us it frees us to new possibilities.

Quote:

They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands!"

Our response has to be it is God. When we know that it is God we understand that no man or woman has done anything but rather it is God that has worked through them. When we know it is God we will not fall into the trap of worshipping human beings.

We also understand if God used them then God can use me. If God did it through them God can do something special through me. This helps us deal with our self-esteem issues as we don't put ourselves above or below people. We understand that since God is able all things are possible in my life.

Mark 6:3

3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

Look at this. They have put this man back in his place. When they ask, "Is not this the carpenter?" They want to see him as he was not as he is. They are looking back because they can't see the new Jesus. One of the biggest problems in our moving forward with our lives are the people who knew us best or knew us when and they can't or refuse to see who we are. We have to resist the temptation to join them and then see ourselves as they see us.

“Is this not...the sone of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sister here with us?”

They are trying to limit Jesus to who his family is. When people are trying to put you in your place they will try to remind you of where you came from. We have to remind them that where I came from has nothing to say about where I am. We can't allow people's limited view of us to dictate how we see ourselves. Our pedigree doe not limit our potential.

And they took offense at him.

The folk were offended that Jesus wasn't who he used to be. When you dare to challenge how people want to define you they will be offended. When people are stuck in the past as to who you were and what you did in comparison to who you are and what you are doing now, expect them to be offended. Matter of fact let them be offended and then keep on being who you are.

Mark 6:4

4 Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.”

Jesus called them out. He let them know that he knew what was going on. In essence Jesus is saying, “I know ya'll don't respect what is happening and ya'll still see me as Mary's little boy. Ya'll tripping I am Jesus; God with you and you are missing it.”

Don't miss who God is calling you to be because other people don't see it. Don't miss how God has freed you from your past if other will not let it go. You have to let it go, let them go and move on. Jesus calls them out, does his thing and move on.

Mark 6:4-6

4 Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” **5** And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. **6** And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

Jesus called them out.

Jesus did what he was called to do. He taught among them, healed the sick and got out of there. Jesus was amazed that they couldn't see what God was doing. Here miracles were being performed right before their eyes and instead of worshipping the God they are questioning God. They are not only questioning what they saw they are trying to make Jesus question who he is.

Jesus is amazed at their unbelief and instead of staying there and wrestle with them he leaves. Jesus left his hometown and goes to teach in the villages. Jesus understood that you can't make somebody see what they refuse to see. You can't make somebody see the new you. You can't make someone respect you are recognize who you are or what you have done. There are times we have to just keep it moving to protect our own sense of sanity, healing, wholeness and identity. When we sit around folk and or allow

folk to tell us who we are they will mess around and confuse us. We will not who we are because they do not know who we are.

People's assessment of us can be to low, to high and sometimes just dead wrong. People can try to hold you back and sometimes push you up and in both cases these might be not who you are. People can try to push up to stuff that you are not called to be or do and then on the other hand they can try to hold you back. The key here is that you have to know who you are and present yourself to yourself and others in a consistent manner. When you know who you are, whose you are and what are called to be and do you have to fight to maintain that sense of identity. You have to fight in midst of confusion and doubt to be that. You have to do the work that coincides with your sense of identity and this will work to secure you as you walk along the way. Go and be and do what you God has called you to be and do at this point in your journey and this will sustain you. The work you do will affirm who you are in connection with the relationship you build that confirm your calling. Confirmation is a communal event / relationship.