

THE WISDOM OF JESUS

Lesson Scripture: Mark 6:1-6; 7:1-23

Focus Scripture:

Key Verses: 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? ..." And they took offense at him. Mark 6:2-3 (NRSV)

MARK 6:1-6 (NRSV)

1 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.

MARK 6:1-6 (KJV)

1 And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him.

2 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

4 But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

5 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

6 And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

KEY TERMS

- **Wilderness** – A place that is lacking/barren.
- **Reed** – A tall, slender-leaved plant.
- **Soft Robes** – Fine clothing.
- **Prophet** – One who speaks forth by divine inspiration.
- **Messenger** – Delegate.
- **Obedient** – Under arrangement.
- **Astonish** – Strike with panic or shock.
- **Anxiety** – Painful sorrow; uneasiness.

INTRODUCTION

“I Know Who You Are”

It is difficult for people to accept who you've become when they know who you were. This is more prevalent in places where you grew up before people's eyes. Sometimes, despite all your good works and all you have accomplished, people can only see what they remember about you, especially if their impression of you is smaller than God's anointing and calling on your life.

TELLING THE BIBLE STORY

This was the case with Jesus: John the Baptist had already done the leg-work and prepared the people for Jesus' arrival. To solidify his foretelling, Jesus allowed John to baptize Jesus. A dove descended, and God spoke from the clouds anointing Jesus as God's son with whom God was “well pleased.” Jesus was led off to be tempted, launched an

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itinerant ministry, set apart some disciples, cast out demons, performed healings, and cleansed lepers – all before the end of Mark 1. By the time Jesus returned home, Jesus had twelve devout disciples, an active itinerant ministry that reached thousands, numerous conversions, performed exorcisms,

and had thriving Bible studies. Yet, all Jesus' anointing, accomplishments, and gifts were met with ridicule and criticism. He was “the carpenter's son” because of who Jesus' parents were, and they could not see Jesus' identity beyond that. Even Jesus' birth did not change their thinking. Because of Jesus' limited formal

education, they could not see Jesus as a teacher. Because Jesus lacked formal religious training, they couldn't see Jesus as qualified to preach, exorcise, or heal. They could not and did not accept Jesus. At home, Jesus' calling and ministry meant nothing!

SANKOFA

Queen Nzinga endured an experience much like Jesus. Though of royal lineage, the state of her mother, a slave woman, caused great resistance when the time came for her to assume the throne. Despite her negotiations with the Portuguese, which led to a peace treaty, her position as queen was questioned and rejected, both because she was the daughter of a slave woman and she was a woman. None of her previous accomplishments, diplomatic tactics, or defense skills mattered. The people knew who and what she was, and they refused to accept her as the heiress to the throne. However, Queen Nzinga would not allow others to take away what she knew her bloodline afforded her, so she fought.

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CASE STUDY

Tanya was 23 years old. She had grown up in the church and every organization Tanya was able to join, she did. Anything she could do to help, Tanya was there.

She loved the church. It was the place where she felt safe, where Tanya felt she could be herself. That is, until Tanya found herself in an unfortunate situation. Then the place that was her sanctuary turned into her pain.

Despite her success, one unfortunate event now marked Tanya's life. Following that life-changing event, "I remember when..." became the resounding theme in Tanya's speech. No matter how much the ministries in her church grew as a result of her influence, Tanya was limited to what people remembered of her past. No matter how many people were converted, committed to, or joined the church, Tanya

felt unable to move beyond her past. It took Tanya's moving away for many years and her gifts being used in major ways, for Tanya's "I remember when...", to turn into "I'm so proud."

LIFE APPLICATION

Though generic in form, this is a story that is all too familiar. Growing up in one location makes it difficult for hometown people to see past what they imagined or thought of you. If you were a star athlete in high school, then all judgments would go through that prejudice. If you were extremely smart, the same. There is an expectation you are to meet, and if you do not, it is met with disappointment.

The same happens in a reverse situation. We place judgments based on other's upbringing, familial status, behavior, physical appearance, etc. Look at Queen Nzinga. She was rejected not because she was an incapable or incompetent ruler. She was rejected simply because she was a woman. Unfortunately, she, like so

many, was only as great as her context. Everything from that point forward was screened through that one experience.

Jesus had a gift that didn't come from man. Jesus, like Queen Nzinga, had a gift that came from God, his Father. Every year, Jesus would go to the temple with his parents to celebrate Passover. He would sit at the feet of the elders and listen. By the time Jesus was twelve, he would

engage in discourse and ask questions. By the time Jesus became an adult, Jesus was well versed and saw God in the simplest things in life, hence Jesus' use of parables. Jesus' abilities came from God, and Jesus' knowledge through experience. But, his upbringing as a carpenter's son stained people's idea of who

and what Jesus was, and was to be. Jesus was different. Jesus broke traditions and went against the unwritten rules.

 We place judgments based on other's upbringing, familial status, behavior, physical appearance, etc.

QUESTIONS

1. How has someone's prejudice prevented you from doing the work you know you were capable of doing?

2. What was it about Jesus that made so many question his ministry?
3. Can you recall a time you broke traditions to serve others? Share your experience.

CLOSING DEVOTION

God, from this day forward, we dare to

“break the mold, go off the wall, be in the world but not of it. (Go) against the grain, less of the same, (and) walk out what love is.” Even if it means rejection. People’s idea of me will not stop who God called me to be. I’m going to march to the beat of a different drum. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

July 13 – July 19

Monday	Mark 5:35-43 (Jesus Restores Leader’s Daughter to Life)
Tuesday	John 4:27-29, 39-42 (Samaritans Testify to Wisdom of Jesus)
Wednesday	Colossians 2:1-5 (All Wisdom Dwells in Christ)
Thursday	Mark 7:1-8 (Jesus Denounces Human Traditions)
Friday	Mark 7:9-15 (God’s Wisdom Trumps Human Commands)
Saturday	Mark 7:17-23 (The Heart Not the Stomach Defiles)
Sunday	Mark 6:1-6 (Jesus’ Wisdom Astonishes His Hometown People)