

Bible chat notes week starting 4 7 21

Read Mark 6: 1 - 5

1. Jesus returns to Nazareth, his hometown, to minister in the local synagogue. Look through all the questions people ask about Jesus in verses 2 and 3. Although many people are amazed, it seems the general desire is to knock him down a peg or two; to restrict this local upstart! What are their grounds for not believing in Jesus, as suggested by some of these questions?
2. Consider your own self-talk, and of things that people have said about you, or about the church. What grounds are suggested for restricting our own desire to be a positive influence on the world around us?
3. A general saying was in circulation that a prophet was without honour in his hometown. In verse 4, Jesus develops this still further. Why is it that the people who know us from childhood - especially, perhaps our own siblings and childhood friends - might find it hardest to take us seriously as perhaps they should?
4. Happily, this is not always the case! How did the family you grew up in rate your progress through life?
5. Does your attitude to your family and friends liberate them or hold them back?

Read Mark 6: 6 - 13

1. Why did Jesus send the disciples out in pairs? Share examples of times when you drew strength from working with another.
2. What are the disciples instructed to take with them, and what are they instructed to leave behind? Can you account for the reasons behind these directions?
3. Why do you think Jesus did not want the disciples to travel about from house to house?
4. One specific purpose of their mission is suggested in verse 7 - the disciples are given authority over impure spirits. In verse 12 and 13, we learn more of their work. In everyday, realistic terms, how might this inspire us in our relationships with people outside the church?
5. Which adjectives describe the manner in which Christians should go about their mission in the world?

Conclusion

Suggest one or two changes our study might inspire in your own life and in the outreach of the church.