



## Rejection and Resurgence

### Key idea:

The way of God's Kingdom and Word causes scandal and offense to many, but God calls His people to continue to proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom and minister to push back the kingdom of darkness.

### Key text:

Mark 6:1-13

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles!" <sup>3</sup> Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." <sup>5</sup> He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. <sup>7</sup> Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. <sup>8</sup> These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff — no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. <sup>9</sup> Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. <sup>10</sup> Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup> And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them." <sup>12</sup> They went out and preached that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

### Key points:

1. The people of Jesus' hometown of Nazareth are amazed at Jesus' teaching, wisdom, and the reports of His miracles.
2. The people of Nazareth consider Jesus' humble origins and are offended and scandalized by Him, refusing to recognize His Divine wisdom and power and believe in Him.
3. Rather than giving into despair, Jesus simply moves on to teach in other villages and then commissions the disciples to go forth to teach, drive out demons, and heal the sick.

### Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. If I were a resident of Nazareth who had known Jesus and His whole family since He was young, how do I think I would have reacted? Would I have been tempted to be offended like Jesus' neighbors were?
3. Have I ever experienced jealousy when an acquaintance, friend, or family member accomplishes more than me or receives the recognition that I do not? Why can this produce jealousy in me? How should I respond?
4. If I am honest, what things does God say in His Word, or which of His actions tempts me to be offended or stumble? What does my flesh find foolish or offensive in Jesus or the Gospel of the Kingdom?
5. How does this story of the rejection at Nazareth and then the immediate commissioning and sending forth of the disciples to expand the Kingdom relate to the parables in Mark 4?
6. Does Jesus' instructions to the disciples to take no food, money, or extra clothes apply to me today? Why or why not?
7. How am I called to engage in spiritual warfare today? How am I called to proclaim God's Word and drive back the forces of darkness?
8. How do I respond when others reject or ridicule me for my Christian faith? Am I more tempted to arrogantly lash out at them, or to become embarrassed into silence? What can I learn from Jesus and the disciples in this episode in Mark's Gospel?
9. Who can I reach out to this week to share the Gospel or strengthen their faith?