

- I) V1 INTRO: Then He went out from there and came to *His own country* and His disciples followed
 - a) AS WE BEGIN: *His own country* is a way of speaking of Nazareth, where He was raised (Lu 4:16)
 - 1) Mark is simply telling us He came into that area to continue His ministry

- II) KEY: Jesus' returning to His hometown was not for a family visit but for a time of ministry
 - a) He was busy performing the ministry His Father had sent Him to perform
 - 1) Jn 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.
 - 2) Jn 9:4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the night is coming when no one can work.*

- III) JESUS: Entered into His hometown, and His disciples *followed Him*
 - a) FACT: This is what disciples are supposed to do: *Follow Jesus* and learn from Him
 - 1) Mk 1:17 Jesus said to Simon and Andrew *come after Me* and I will make you become *fishers of men*
 - 2) KEY: This is precisely what Jesus is training His men to become: *He did it by example*

- IV) V2 AND: When the Sabbath had come, He began *to teach* in the synagogue
 - a) AS AN OBSERVANT JEW: Jesus *had the habit* of attending Synagogue services
 - 1) Heb 10:24-25 Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching

- V) FACT: Sharing in the synagogue on the Sabbath was something He did often
 - a) Lu 4:16 He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, *as his custom was*, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

- VI) SADLY: People were not always open to the things He had to say
 - a) LUKE RECORDS: What the response of the people was when Jesus had shared on that day
 - 1) Lu 4:28-30 All those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, *were filled with wrath*, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.

- VII) THE OBVIOUS FACT IS: People are not always receptive to hearing the claims of Jesus
 - a) WHY: Because many do not want to hear the *exclusive claims* of Jesus Christ

- VIII) IT SEEMS: That many respect the fact that Jesus was a profound teacher and a good Man
 - a) BUT THE FACT IS: Jesus made claims that *clearly* divided people
 - 1) Mt 10:34-36 Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his *own* household.
 - 2) Jn 3:18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but *he who does not believe* is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- IX) HERE: Jesus once again attempts to reach His former neighbors and friends
 - a) KEY: Even though they had violently opposed Him before, He shares with them once more
 - 1) 2 Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some men count slackness...
 - 2) Ro 2:4 Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that *God's kindness leads you toward repentance?*

- I) HOW MANY TIMES: Did He try to reach you until you finally responded to Him?
 - a) QUESTION: How many close calls did you survive before you finally called out to Him
 - 1) The thief on the cross reveals how deep God's mercy is

- II) V2b THEIR RESPONSE: They are *astonished* by Him and began asking questions
 - a) ASTONISHED: Struck with amazement
 - 1) JESUS SPOKE: With such clarity, eloquence, and authority that they were amazed
 - 2) Mt 7:29 says He taught them *as one having authority*, and not as the scribes

- III) FIRST: They asked Where did this Man get these words (His doctrine and ability to explain scripture)
 - a) THEIR THOUGHT: He did not go through any of our Rabbinic academies
 - 1) Jn 7:15 How has this man become learned, having never been educated?
 - 2) Is 50:4 The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned.

- IV) SECOND: They asked Where did He get these mighty works?
 - a) Where did He get the power to perform such works?
 - 1) *IMPORTANT*: They did not deny that He performed works questioned their origin
 - 2) REMEMBER: Some were saying His power had come from Beelzebub (3:22)

- V) FACT: They *Ignored* the obvious answer: Jesus' anointing was from above!
 - a) The works were of heavenly origin: Some were very aware of this and were drawn to Him
 - 1) Jn 3:2 Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."
 - 2) Jn 5:36 I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very *work* that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, *testifies that the Father has sent me.*

- VI) TO THEIR OWN HURT: They were ignoring the obvious: *Jesus was from God*
 - a) THIS IS: The sin of *unbelief* (faithlessness), an unwillingness to trust God
 - 1) VOLTAIRE: "If a miracle occurred in the market place of Paris in the presence of two thousand men, I would rather disbelieve my own eyes than to believe the two thousand."
 - 2) SADLY: They wondered at His words and were amazed at His works, but refused to believe

- VII) V3 IS THIS NOT THE *CARPENTER'S SON*: We all knew Joseph, and he was a simple carpenter
 - a) They still thought of Jesus as one who was simply a carpenter, like Joseph
 - 1) This made Him just an ordinary person, like them

- VIII) THEY WERE LOOKING FOR *ANY EXCUSE TO REJECT HIM*
 - a) They reduced Him to an ordinary man to excuse their unbelief
 - 1) Is 53:2 and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.
 - 2) Jn 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

- IX) V3c AND THEY WERE *OFFENDED AT HIM*: They were stumbled over Jesus
 - a) THOUGHT: How dare this ordinary man call us to accountability and repentance?
 - 1) In their minds, Jesus was simply not fitting their understanding of Messiah

- I) V4 BUT: Jesus said to them A prophet is not without honor except in his own country among His own

- a) POINT: The most difficult people to reach are your own family and friends
 - 1) Jn 7:5 Even His brothers did not believe in Him

- II) V5-6 NOW: *He could do* no mighty work there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people
 - a) UNBELIEF: Kept them from receiving blessings from the Lord
 - 1) People rejected Him, and did not take advantage of His ministry to them
 - 2) Lu 13:34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but *you were not willing!*

- III) V6 NOTICE JESUS' RESPONSE: And He *marveled* because of their unbelief
 - a) INTERESTINGLY: Jesus marvels twice in the New Testament
 - 1) FIRST: He marveled over a Gentile's faith in Him when he trusted Jesus to heal his servant
 - a) Mt 8:10 Centurion: He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found so *great faith*, no, not in Israel
 - 2) SECOND: He marvels here over the hardness and unbelief of the people
 - a) KEY: In both instances it was faith or the absence of it that caused Christ to wonder.

- IV) V5-6 NOW: He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people
 - a) He could do no works because people would not come to Him
 - 1) There are *two things that God always hears*. Mark this! The *first* is the voice of faith, and the *second* is the voice of unbelief. As much as God *loves* faith, so much he *hates* unbelief. When we are strong in faith, the Lord can do anything *with* us and *for* us, and he can make us equal to all difficulties. But when we give way to unbelief, Christ himself can do nothing with us.

- V) FINALLY: He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching
 - a) Their unbelief did not keep Him from continuing His ministry
 - 1) SADLY: Their rejection kept them from glorious blessings from the Lord
 - 2) STILL: There were many others who were open to Him, *so He went to them*