

## Introduction

When Tiger Woods came out onto the PGA Tour, it was immediately apparent that there was something very special about this young superstar. When he hit his shots, the sound of the shot was very different. It was not just different from amateurs, it was a different sound than the other PGA Tour players, the best players in the world. His shots exploded off of his clubface. It was not unusual for PGA Tour players to stop and watch Tiger hit shots on practice tee. Normally PGA Tour players do not stand and watch other players practice, but there was something different about this young man. It would be fair to say that the everyone was amazed at the way Tiger hit the ball.

Our story today is out of Mark 6:1-6, and it concludes with Jesus being amazed at the people from His hometown, Nazareth. The Greek word that is used is *thaumazo* (Strong's G2296), which is used 47 times in the New Testament. It is translated as amazed or marveled in the majority of those occurrences. There are two different times when the word is used to describe Jesus. The first time is when Jesus was told by the centurion that his servant was lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented. Jesus told him that He would go and heal him. The centurion told Jesus that He simply needed to give the command, rather than coming all the way to his house. He said that he too was a man under authority and he gave commands and it was done. He understood that Jesus had authority to just speak the command for his servant to be healed. Jesus marveled (*thaumazo*) at the faith of the centurion.

(Matt 8:5-13) "And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, {6} and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented." {7} Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." {8} But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. {9} For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does *it*." {10} Now when Jesus heard *this*, He **marveled** (*thaumazo*) and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.... {13} And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed that *very* moment.

The other instance of when Jesus marveled or was amazed was in our passage today. What a contrast we have in the two uses. In the account of the centurion, Jesus marveled at the faith of the centurion. In our account today, Jesus marveled at the unbelief of the people in Nazareth. Unbelief is the opposite of faith. We have a very positive example and a very negative example.

Our passage today is about why Jesus marveled at the unbelief of the people of Nazareth. There are a number of different evidences of their unbelief and we will look at these evidences. Jesus came and taught at the synagogue and He also miraculously healed some people. The Nazarenes were amazed and asked where He got this wisdom and these powers. But their line of questioning reveals that they did not accept Jesus as being the Son of God. They only gave Him credit for being the son of Mary and the brother to his sisters and brothers. They also took offense at Jesus. Because of their unbelief, Mark records that Jesus could not do many miracles there; He only healed a few people. Finally, we will also look at the applications that each of us can take from the passage for our own live.

**23 Why Jesus Was Amazed (Mark 6:1-6)**

1. They did not believe the Scriptures (Proclamation)
2. They did not believe the miracles (Demonstration)

**Conclusion and Applications (Three Responses)**

1. Their Response
2. Jesus' Response
3. My Response

(Mark 6:1-6) "Jesus went out from there and came into His hometown; and His disciples followed Him. {2} When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man *get* these things, and what is *this* wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? {3} "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him. {4} Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his *own* relatives and in his *own* household." {5} And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. {6} And He wondered at their unbelief. And He was going around the villages teaching."

**1. They did not believe the Scriptures (Proclamation) (Mark 6:1-2)**

(Mark 6:1) "Jesus went out from there and came into His hometown; and His disciples followed Him."

Our passage begins with Jesus going to his hometown, along with His disciples. Jesus grew up in Nazareth. Joseph was living in Nazareth when he was engaged to Mary. At the time of His birth, they went up from Nazareth to Bethlehem because of the census. After Jesus' birth (4-6 b.c.) and they had performed everything according to the Law, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

(Luke 2:4) "Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,"

(Luke 2:39-40) "When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. {40} The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him."

From Matthew's account, we know that after returning home, Joseph was warned in a dream to go to Egypt, which they did. After Herod died (4 b.c.), an angel told Joseph to go back to Israel, and they returned to Nazareth. So, Nazareth was Jesus' hometown. This is where Joseph worked as a carpenter, and from our text, Jesus had also become a carpenter before entering into His ministry. The people in this small town knew Jesus, His mother, and His brothers and sisters. Since there is no mention of Joseph in this passage; it is likely that Joseph had died. Even though Jesus had since moved to Capernaum, His hometown was Nazareth. Capernaum is on the northwest side of the Sea of Galilee. Nazareth is southwest of the Sea of Galilee, and both are considered to be part of Galilee.

(Matt 2:19-23) "But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, {20} "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead." {21} So Joseph got up, took the

Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. {22} But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned *by God* in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, {23} and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

We don't know when Jesus and His disciples arrived at Nazareth, but when the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue. There was a response by the people, who said, "Where did this man get these things, what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands?" Jesus began to teach in the synagogue. What did Jesus go around teaching and proclaiming? Jesus went around proclaiming the kingdom of God.

(Mark 6:2) "When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man *get* these things, and what is *this* wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands?"

Mark does not tell us what Jesus read or taught on that Sabbath, but when we look at Luke's parallel account, we find that He read from Isaiah 61-1-2. After reading this prophetic word about the coming of the Messiah, He closed the book and said, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus had just told the people in Nazareth that He was the Messiah who had been anointed to preach the gospel, proclaim release to captives, give sight to the blind, and to set free those who are oppressed.

(Luke 4:16-22) "And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. {17} And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, {18} "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, {19} TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." {20} And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. {21} And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." {22} And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

When Jesus wondered about their unbelief, the first area of unbelief was in the Scriptures. Jesus quoted the scriptures and they rejected the Scripture that He taught. Ultimately, they were not just rejecting the Scriptures, but they were rejecting Christ. Their first area of unbelief was in the Scriptures.

## 2. They did not believe the Demonstration (His miracles) (Mark 6:2)

We also saw in verse 2 that they asked about the miracles performed by His hands. They wanted to know where this wisdom and this power came from. We know from verse 5 that Jesus did lay hands on a few sick people and heal them. So, Jesus performed some miracles among them. That was what Jesus did. He proclaimed the gospel, healed the sick, and cast out demons. He set prisoners free and gave sight to the blind. He proclaimed that message from Isaiah 61, and He also demonstrated that message there in Nazareth.

(Mark 6:2) "...Where did this man *get* these things, and what is *this* wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands?"

(Mark 6:5) "And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them."

In Luke's account, the people also said, "Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." If you recall the last scene in Mark 5 was the raising up of Jairus' daughter from the dead. She was sick to the point of death and then died. He raised her from the dead. Right before that, He had healed the woman who had been hemorrhaging for twelve years. She had heard of what Jesus did and came to Him to get healed. She did it privately and touched the back of His robe, hoping not to be noticed. What testimony had she heard? Well, we also saw that when Jesus returned from freeing the two demoniacs on the other side of the Sea, they brought a paralytic to Jesus, and He healed the paralytic. There were a lot of miracles that they had heard about, and there were also miracles that He performed there among them. When Jesus wondered about their unbelief, it was because these miracles validated the fact that He was the Messiah.

(Luke 4:23) "And He said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'"

Jesus had been anointed to preach the gospel, give sight to the blind, and set free the captive. He went around proclaiming the kingdom of God and demonstrating the kingdom of God. The works that He did were testifying that He was the Messiah. In John 5:36, Jesus said this, "But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish – the very works that I do – testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me." Raising people from the dead, giving sight to the blind, casting out demons and setting people free, healing paralytics, and healing lepers were all works that testified that Jesus was the Messiah sent from God the Father. The people of Nazareth were not just rejecting the miracles, but Jesus' Messiahship.

(John 5:36) "But the testimony which I have is greater than *the testimony of John*; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish—the very works that I do—testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me."

## Conclusion and Applications

Why was Jesus amazed at their unbelief? He was amazed because they had rejected the what the Scriptures said about Jesus and they had rejected the works that He did that also testified of who He is. As we wrap things up, I want to take a look at three responses. The first response is the response by the people of Nazareth. The second response is Jesus' response. The third response is our own response.

### 1. The response by the people of Nazareth

#### a. They were offended by Him. (Mark 6:3)

The Nazarenes did not believe the Scriptures regarding Jesus. The Nazarenes did not believe the miracles and works of Jesus were a testimony that He had been sent by Jesus. When people are presented with the proclamation and demonstration of the kingdom of God, they are faced with a choice. Do we believe that Jesus is the Son of God or do we not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. The people then asked questions about His heritage. They said, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" They were stating their decision. They believed that Jesus was a man who was a carpenter, not the Messiah. They believed that Jesus was part of an earthly family heritage, not the Messiah sent from heaven. In stating this, they were also rejecting the prophecies about the Messiah being born of a virgin. They were rejecting the prophecies that He would be born in Bethlehem. They were rejecting the prophecies that He would be a Nazarene.

(Mark 6:3) "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him."

They were also rejecting the testimony of John the Baptist who testified at the time of Jesus' baptism that Jesus was the Son of God. Everyone in those part of Galilee knew of John the Baptist and the message that He had given about Jesus. By declaring that Jesus was merely Mary's mother and the brother to His four brothers and sisters was a rejection of John's testimony that Jesus was the Son of God.

(John 1:29-34) "The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! {30} This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' {31} I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water." {32} John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. {33} I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' {34} I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

Mark records that they were offended by Jesus. Jesus had not sinned. He had not done any wrong to any man. He had only delivered and healed people. He had only proclaimed righteousness and the kingdom of God. The gospel message, however, is one that can offend. In Matthew 11:2-6, John the Baptist was imprisoned and he heard of the works of Christ. He sent word by his disciples to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" Jesus answered with Isaiah 61:1-3 again, and then He finished by saying, "And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me." When people are confronted with the gospel message, they must believe in Christ or they must reject Christ.

(Matt 11:2-6) "Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent *word* by his disciples {3} and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" {4} Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: {5} *the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.* {6} "And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."

The Greek word that is translated as offended is *skandalizo* (Strong's G4624), which means to put a snare in the way, to cause to stumble, or to give offense. When Jesus said that we are not to

cause a little one to stumble (Matthew 18:6), He is speaking about sin. When Jesus said if your foot causes you to stumble (Matthew 18:8), He is speaking about sin. However, in this instance, Jesus has not sinned and caused them to stumble. They were stumbling over the idea that Jesus is the Messiah. He is the cornerstone that was being rejected. Peter makes this very clear in 1 Peter 2:6-8. He quotes from Isaiah 28:16 and Psalm 118:22. He said that Jesus is the choice stone, a precious stone. Those that believe in Him will not be disappointed. Jesus is the stone which the builders rejected. Jesus was a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. He said that they stumble because they are disobedient to the word. It is interesting that the word disobedient in the Greek is *apeitheo* (Strong's G544) which is a compound word. The prefix "a" is a negative prefix and *peitheo* means to be convinced or persuaded. It is the root word of *pistis*, the Greek word for faith. In this case stumbling means that you have not believed, trusted, or been persuaded that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. The people of Nazareth had rejected Christ this rock of offense.

(1 Pet 2:6-8) "For *this* is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER *stone*, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." {7} This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER *stone*," {8} and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed."

Jesus had proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom to the people of Nazareth. He had presented the prophecies and declared that He was the fulfillment of these prophecies. He had demonstrated the kingdom of God and His works testified that He was the Son of God. His identity has been revealed and proclaimed by John the Baptist, and the people of Nazareth had stumbled over the precious cornerstone. Jesus was amazed and marveled that after all of this they had not believed.

**b. They did not honor Him.** (Mark 6:4)

Jesus responded by saying to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own household." How had they dishonored Jesus? They had rejected His message to them. They had rejected the testimony of His works. They had rejected His Messiahship. Jesus was the Messianic King and they had not accepted Him as their King. Their rejection of Jesus as the Messianic King was how they dishonored Him.

(Mark 6:4) "Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his *own* relatives and in his *own* household."

We find in Luke's account that Jesus then told the story about the prophet Elijah and how he only went to the Sidonian widow. Next, Jesus told about the many lepers in Israel and how Elisha cleansed only Naaman, who was a Syrian. The people in the temple were not just offended, they were filled with rage and drove Him out of the city and intended to throw them down the cliff. Jesus passed through their midst and went His way. They were not only offended, but they dishonored Jesus by driving Him out of Nazareth and intended to kill Him.

(Luke 4:24-30) "And He said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. {25} But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; {26} and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, *in the land of*

Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. {27} And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." {28} And all *the people* in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; {29} and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. {30} But passing through their midst, He went His way."

Mark also mentioned that a prophet is without honor even among his own relatives and in his own household. The home is where honor is taught. Children are to honor their parents. Husbands and wives are to honor one another. Yet, in Jesus' home, He was not being honored by His own family. Jesus' brothers and sisters were not believing in Him, and had not embraced Him as the Messiah. It was not until His death and resurrection that they became believers. We find them in Acts 1 praying with the rest of the believers. But at this point they were not believing in Him.

(Mark 6:4) "Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his *own* relatives and in his *own* household."

(Acts 1:14) "These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with *the* women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."

## 2. Jesus' Response

Our passage concludes with two actions of Jesus. First, He continued to heal people. Second, He continued going around the villages and teaching. Jesus kept right on proclaiming and demonstrating the kingdom of God.

(Mark 6:5-6) "And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. {6} And He wondered at their unbelief. And He was going around the villages teaching."

First, by saying that Jesus could do no miracle except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. When people rejected Him as the Messiah, He kept right on doing the things that the Father had sent Him to do. Jesus' obedience was not contingent on the actions of others. Let me say that again. Jesus' obedience was not contingent on the right response and actions of others. We must always do the right thing, even if the people around us do the wrong thing. Our obedience is never contingent on the actions of others. I have preached that message to so many people. I have preached that to so many married couples. One woman would not forgive her husband and she would not honor him. I told her that the Scriptures tell her that she must honor him, and if he has been disobedient, he can be won back as he observes her chaste and respectful behavior. She said that she would honor him when he began acting in a manner worthy of honor. I told her that God required her to honor him and her honoring was not contingent on the actions of others. We always have to do what is right.

(1 Peter 3:1-2) "In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, {2} as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior."

Jesus kept healing people, but only a few were healed. Most of us would welcome a few sick people getting healed. Jesus was used to healing lots of people and sometimes all the people. I think there are three take-aways from this statement. First, unbelief is something that can block the power of God from flowing in our lives. Jesus had all faith and all power to do anything at any time. God is sovereign and all powerful. He can create the heavens and earth without our faith. He could raise Jesus from the dead without the faith of anyone. But, unbelief is something that can block the flow of God's power in our lives.

Second, the opposite of unbelief is faith. We need to grow in our faith so that we can experience more of God's power in our lives and ministries. Jesus was constantly reminding the disciples that they needed to have the faith of a mustard seed. The mustard seed was small and yet it grew to be a large tree. We need to grow in our faith. In Romans 4:20-21, we find that Abraham did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God. Unbelief does not glorify or honor God, but faith pleases God. Growing strong in our faith is something that honors God. We need to grow strong in our faith. How do we do that? What are some things to do?

(Rom 4:20-21) "yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, {21} and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform."

Notice that Paul wrote about Abraham and the promise of God. I believe that one way to grow strong is to find God's promises and receive those promises. We grow strong in our faith by accepting His promises and standing on those promises. As we stand firm on those promises, we will grow stronger in faith. As we act upon those promises, we grow stronger.

Where do we find those promises? We find them in the Word of God. We need to spend time in God's word. In Romans 10:17 we find that faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ. We need to read and hear the Word of God. We need to know the promises of God and then stand on those promises. We need good reading programs so that we are aware of those promises. We need to spend time meditating on God's promises. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to give us rhema on those promises. We need to stand firm on those promises. It will help us grow stronger in our faith.

(Rom 10:17) "So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

Confidence usually comes from doing something correctly over and over again. In professional golf, we would practice making three-foot putts. We wanted to see the ball going in the hole over and over again. By practicing these putts, we gained confidence that when we had a three-foot putt, we were going to make it. That is not any different than our faith. As we exercise and practice our faith, we grow stronger and more confident.

Before David faced Goliath, he told King Saul that when a lion or bear came, he went out and attacked them and rescued his lambs. He told King Saul that Goliath was going to be just like a lion or bear and that God would give him into his hands. David was confident. He had gained confidence in his previous experiences. Be like David and step out in your faith. Start with small things and gain confidence. Use that experience to build your faith to do greater things.

(1 Sam 17:34-36) "But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, {35} I went out after him and

attacked him, and rescued *it* from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized *him* by his beard and struck him and killed him. {36} Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God.”

The third take-away from this is perseverance. When we only see a few people healed, are we going to keep persevering? If people reject the gospel message that we share, are we going to wipe the dust off of our feet and keep on sharing the gospel? Are we going to persevere and bear fruit. Last week Tom shared out of 2 Peter 1:1-15, and gave an excellent message. One of those qualities that will make us useful and fruitful is perseverance. Are we going to have perseverance and grow in our perseverance so that we can bear fruit? As a church, we have not seen a lot of fruit yet. We have invited a lot of people. We have shared with a lot of people. Yet, not a lot of people have responded to our efforts. Are we going to persevere so that we can bear fruit?

(2 Peter 1:6-8) “and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, {7} and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. {8} For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

In Luke 8:15, when Jesus taught about the good soil, He said that it bears fruit with perseverance. Even good soil must have perseverance in order to bear fruit. Just because you don’t see fruit immediately, it does not mean the soil is bad. Keep doing the right things and persevere; you will bear fruit with perseverance.

(Luke 8:15) “But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”

3. **Our Response.** The third response is our response. The people of Nazareth rejected Christ; that was their response. Jesus’ response was obedience. He kept doing the things the Father had called Him to do. He kept preaching the kingdom and healing the sick. The real question for each of us this morning is what is our response going to be?

Do you accept the Word of God for what it really is? Do you accept the authority of God’s word? Do you accept what the word of God teaches us about Jesus? Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, or just a man that lived on earth? If you have never received Christ this morning, are you going to receive Jesus? If you have never received Christ into your life, and you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, that He came and died for your sins and was raised from the dead, I want to invite you to pray with me. It doesn’t have to be this exact prayer, but the Scriptures teach us that we must believe and that we must receive Him as our Lord.

Jesus, I believe that You were sent by the Father and that You are the Son of God. I believe that You are the Messiah. I believe that You are the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world. I believe that You came and died for our sins, and were raised from the dead. Lord, I ask You to come into my life and to forgive me of my sins. I ask You to help me grow in my faith. I now confess You as Lord of my life. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

For others that may have already placed their faith in Christ, the question may be about obedience. Are you going to do what God has called you to do, even if others around do not respond properly?

For others, are you going to keep persevering so that you can bear fruit? Jesus kept persevering. Even though the people in His hometown rejected Him, He kept right on healing the sick and preaching the gospel. He went to other villages and kept on proclaiming and demonstrating the kingdom of God. Are you going to persevere and bear fruit.

Q&A

**Introduction** (Matt 8:5-13, Mark 6:1-6)

1. **They did not believe the Proclamation (His teaching)** (Mark 6:1-2, Luke 2:4, 2:39-40, Matt 2:19-23, Is 61:1-2, Luke 4:16-22)
  
2. **They did not believe the Demonstration (His miracles)** (Mark 6:2, 6:5, Luke 4:23, John 5:36)

**Conclusion And Applications**

1. **The Response of the People of Nazareth**
  - a. **They were offended by Him.** (Mark 6:3, John 1:29-34, Matt 11:2-6, 18:6, 18:8, 1 Pet 2:6-8, Is 28:16, Ps 118:22)
  - b. **They did not honor Him.** (Mark 6:4, Luke 4:24-30, Acts 1:14)
2. **The Response of Jesus** (Mark 6:5-6, Rom 4:20-21, 10:17, 1 Sam 17:34-36, 2 Peter 1:6-7, Luke 8:15)
3. **My Response**