



THE GOSPEL OF

MARK



Sermon Series Notes

“Faith & Honor” (Mark 6:1-6a)

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Intro: When I say “Homecoming,” what comes into your mind? My mind goes back to when I was a kid, and Emmanuel Baptist Church had a Homecoming service. I never knew the reason for it, and quite frankly, I didn’t care. I just knew it meant fried chicken, and the best banana pudding this side of the Mason Dixon. That was a church service I looked forward to.

Today we look at Jesus’ homecoming, and he goes to church when he gets there, but it was not something to look forward to. There was no fried chicken, no banana pudding, and the service ended in potential disaster.

Read the text.

The Context

See Luke 4:14-30

Luke 4:14a Jesus has just completed a 40 day fast, been repeatedly tempted by the devil, yet comes away from this experience full of the Spirit. Please note with me that he went into the experience full of the Spirit (Luke 4:1-2, 21). His physical weakness during the 40 days in the desert turned into spiritual strength (II Cor.12:8).

Luke 4:14b What was the news? The voice from heaven at his baptism (Luke 3:22); His first miracle in Cana of Galilee, turning water into wine (John 2:1-25); Mark 1:21-28, 29-34, 40-45; 2:1-12; 3:7-12; 5:1-20, 21-43.

Luke 4:15 Jesus’ teaching ministry has gained just as much reputation as his healing and miracle working ministry. Remember that the people said He taught with authority, not something they were accustomed to (Matt.7:29; I Thess.1:5).

Here’s why I take the time to go into some detail regarding the context of Jesus’ homecoming in Nazareth. Everyone in Nazareth had heard what He has been doing.

Nobody in Nazareth is unaware of how popular this hometown boy had become, and in such a short amount of time. So when he comes back home, word quickly spreads on the street. When he shows up, he has his disciples with him, a rag tag bunch that the world is not at all impressed with, and they accompany him to the synagogue, where he is to teach, just as he had in many other synagogues during his travels about the country. I can only imagine that this synagogue in Nazareth, on this day, is standing room only.

Luke 4:16-19 Jesus stops mid-verse when reading what we know as Isaiah 61, why? Because the last half of the verse is going to be fulfilled at His second coming, “and the day of vengeance of our God.”

Luke 4:20 Can't you just imagine the emotion in that moment? Every eye in the place is fixed upon Jesus. What is He going to say? What message will He share from this passage of Scripture? What miracle might he perform?

Luke 4:21 I'm not sure everyone caught what He said. Or perhaps someone leaned over to a friend and asked, “What did He just say?” And another said, “Did He just say what I think He said?”

Luke 4:22 I have to assume that Jesus said other things in His delivery that we are not given the details of. At first all went well, but at some point Jesus said some things that changed everything.

Luke 4:23 Read 4:31-44, noting that the people of Capernaum “tried to keep him from leaving them.” Capernaum is 30 miles Northeast of Nazareth, right on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. They welcome Him with open arms, and he does many miracles among them, something he did not do in Nazareth.

This prophecy about his hometown family and friends includes sarcastic comments they would make toward Jesus during His time of greatest need – the cross (“Physician, heal yourself!”). Despite all the miracles He had performed other places, despite all the testimony available that He is indeed who He claims to be, the Messiah, His hometown crowd would in the future demean Him as he hung on the cross.

Luke 4:24a Please note this, He tells them the truth.

Luke 4:24b-26 They all knew this story, it is found in I Kings 17:7-24 (Read). They knew the story, but the point Jesus makes about them from the story is that they are just like the people of Israel during Elijah's ministry, religious, but without real faith. And just as they begin to chew on that truth, Jesus continues.

Luke 4:27. They also knew this story very well, it is found in II Kings 5:1-19 (summarize). It's a different story with the same point, the people of Nazareth are just like the people of Israel during Elisha's ministry, religious, but without real faith.

All of a sudden we go from Luke 4:22 to Luke 4:28-30, and what a massive downhill slide!

Luke 4:28-30 WOW! These are His homies, and they try to kill him! They were pretty offended!

The truth can be especially offensive when it is presented by someone you are familiar with.

Mark 4:4 Only in his hometown, among his relatives, and in his own house is a prophet without honor.

"Familiarity breeds contempt." This idiom has to do with not respecting someone because you know them well enough to know their shortcomings.

Moses grumbled against by his family (Numbers 12), by the people (Numbers 14), and by his leadership (Numbers 16). I wonder how much the knowledge of Moses' past failures affected the lack of honor he received?

Joseph hated by his brothers. Joseph of course was the youngest of his brothers, and his father's favorite (Gen.37).

The most difficult people to receive ministry from is often those you are most familiar with.

"Who does he think he is?" That is the attitude toward Jesus by this hometown crowd.

The most difficult people to minister to are those most familiar with you - among family, friends, and those who know you the best. Just their familiarity with you will make it much more difficult to honor you.

Note with me Mark 6:6b-11; Jesus, by what happens to Him in Nazareth, is helping to prepare His disciples for rejection, especially from people who know you the best, the "hometown crowd" if you will.

The truth can be offensive to people.

Sometimes it's not so much familiarity with the person speaking truth, it's the truth itself.

See John 15:18-25

To say they hated Jesus without reason does not mean they thought they had no reason to hate Him. It means the reason was not rational. Jesus never did anything wrong, right? And the evidence to verify the truth about Him is abundant - the prophecies, miracles, teaching, life, etc. And what He said about the people of his hometown would turn out to be true.

We can say everything right about Jesus, present the truth clearly, and yet some people will be offended.

People tend to get offended when you tell them the truth, especially when it confronts the true condition of their hearts, or their perspective on life, etc. I offend Catholics when I expose the awful doctrinal heresies of the Catholic church, etc.

When 80 courageous priests confronted King Uzziah as he attempted to offer incense, he got angry, was enraged (II Chron.26).

Some people's resistance to truth is emotional and volitional, not intellectual. It's not a head problem, it's a heart problem. The great atheist Fredrick Nietzsche wrote, "If one were to prove this God of the Christians to us, we should be even less able to believe in him...it is our preference that decides against Christianity, not arguments."

Ultimately the animosity of the world toward believers is spiritual, not rational.

Summary and application from Jesus' homecoming story:

They allowed their familiarity with Jesus to keep them from honoring Him, and that prevented them from putting their faith in Him.

They allowed their familiarity with Jesus to keep them from putting their faith in Him, and that prevented them from honoring Him.

Their lack of faith in Jesus, and failure to honor Jesus, prevented Him from doing for them what He would have liked.

To believe & acknowledge the truth about Jesus, if you had grown up with Him, would be like your brother going off to college, then coming home and claiming to be Superman!

Let's not forget that back in Mark 3 Jesus' family had come to "take charge of him," because they thought He was out of his mind. Let's also not forget that his brothers did not believe in him (John 7:5). There may be a good chance that his sisters didn't either.

Some people read or listen to stories like this and think, “If I had grown up with Jesus, I would have honored Him, I would have put my faith in Him?” And some are certain they would recognize who he really was.

Did you know that some people still today are around Jesus regularly, and they don’t recognize Him? See Matthew 25:31-45; If we were really exercising faith, we would be ministering to people personally, practically. If we were really honoring Jesus, we would do more than simply attend church, etc.

Did you know that some people have actually grown up with Jesus, yet they do not honor Him, do not put their faith in Him? He lives in their father and/or mother, brother or sister, friend, neighbor, work associate, etc.

Now here’s what we must not miss: There is a direct connection between faith and honor.

Honor: High respect; To treat with deference and submission; Adherence to what is right.

Faith: To act based on belief (James 2:17)

Faith involves honor, and honor involves faith. You really cannot have one without the other.

When Jesus was amazed at their lack of faith, I understand. I am amazed at people’s lack of faith. I am talking about people who are so familiar with Jesus, who have perhaps grown up with Jesus, but who are not honoring Jesus personally, practically. And sometimes they talk like they have faith, but if the truth be known, their hearts are far from Him.

Matt.15:8 These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Malachi 1:6 (context)

Proverbs 3:9 **Honor the Lord** with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your increase.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage should be **honored** by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

I Cor.6:18-20 Flee from sexual immorality...Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you received from God? You are not your own, you were bought with a price. Therefore **honor God** with your body.

Ex.20:12 **Honor** your father and mother...

Rom.13:7 Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

I Peter 2:17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

David honored King Saul despite King Saul's sinful ways, and we are called to do the same.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority...

Honoring Moses would equal honoring Christ, because it was Christ who called Moses (see Ex.3:2, the angel of the Lord).

Consideration of what the people of Nazareth lost by failing to honor Jesus.

He would have performed miracles on their behalf.

The greatest miracle is the new birth, so the greatest thing they forfeited was salvation.

John 1:11 He came to his own, and his own received him not. But to as many as received him, to them he gave the power to become sons of God...

To accept Jesus as the Lord and Savior He really is would keep you from an eternity of damnation. You may already believe in Him, but it is not saving faith, because you have not acted on it. And by not doing so you have dishonored Him.

To begin to minister to people in very personal, practical ways would be to minister to Jesus, to honor Him.

To stop the sexual sin would be honoring to Jesus, and would open the door for the Lord to be able to bless you.

To begin to tithe on every paycheck and financial increase would be honoring to Jesus, and would open the door for the Lord to be able to bless you.

To begin obeying your parents, the principal, your pastor, the God-ordained authorities He has put in all of our lives, would honor Jesus, and open the door for the Lord to be able to bless you.

CONCLUSION

Luke 6:46 Why do you call me, "Lord, Lord," and do not do what I say?

I Tim.1:17 Now to the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.