

## “The Danger of Familiarity”

May 25, 2025

Mark 6:1-6

### Introduction

In what ways can familiarity with someone or something be a good thing? In what ways can familiarity be a bad thing?

### Homecoming (Mark 6:1):

*“He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him”*

**Mark 6:1**

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but grew up in Nazareth.

*Following* Jesus can mean *discipleship*, and also physically walking near/with him, from one place to another. This is a picture of *discipleship*

Discipleship is not primarily “classroom”, but in real life and on mission with Jesus.

### Teaching in the Synagogue (Mark 6:2):

*“And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying,*

**Mark 6:2**

Traveling rabbis’ commonly taught in the local synagogues. Jesus, and the apostles after him, continued this practice.

The peoples’ response is similar to that in **Mark 1:22**; they were astonished.

### Questioning and Taking Offense (Mark 6:2-3):

*“Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?”*  
*And they took offense at him”.*

**Mark 6:2-3**

Their astonishment gave way to questions.

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Their astonishment gave way to questions.

They couldn't make sense, from a human perspective of how the Jesus they thought they knew was doing and saying such "mighty works".

**Jesus' Humility:** living a "normal" life for 30 years without any "noticing" Him.

When they couldn't make sense of Jesus, they *took offense*.

#### **Jesus Responds and "Marvels" (Mark 6:4-5):**

*And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief.*

**Mark 6:4-6**

"Familiarity breeds contempt" . **Familiarity can hinder faith.**

As a result, Jesus "could do no mighty work there", he marveled at their *unbelief*.

*Two Questions: What is the danger of familiarity? And how can familiarity lead to unbelief, or a lack of faith?*

How is Jesus a "stone of offense and a rock of stumbling?" (Isaiah 8:14-15)

Jesus came and ministered in such a way as to expose the hearts of people!

Example from Matthew 11:2-6.

**The danger of familiarity is, when mixed with a prideful heart, leads to rigid expectations and cynical assumptions about how, when and where God might be working.**

**Familiarity can hinder a "child-like faith" response to Jesus!**

Do you see any of the examples mentioned in your own heart and life? Which one?

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