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**The Carpenter of Nazareth (Mark 6:1-31)**

Although Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Nazareth was His hometown. It was the home of Mary and Joseph, and Christ dwelt there from childhood until the age of thirty when He began His public ministry. Nazareth was a small, obscure village located about seventy miles north of Jerusalem. It was there that Jesus took up His father's trade as a carpenter.

In Mark 6 we have the record of Jesus return to Nazareth. A year into His public ministry news had reached the town of all the great miracles and wonderful works He was doing throughout the region of Galilee. Now He was returning home to His own people. What kind of reception would He receive?

***"He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him" (John 1:11).***

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

**A. THE MEN OF NAZARETH KNEW JESUS, AND ADMITTED SOME IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT HIM**

- **What are these facts?** 1. Jesus came from Nazareth; 2. He was very wise; 3. He performed many mighty works; 4. He was the Son of Mary. 5. He was a carpenter by profession. These facts bear witness to the deity and the human nature of Christ.
- **Jesus was a Carpenter (Tekton).** The word means craftsman or handyman. According to Justin Martyr (100-165 AD), Jesus "made ploughs and yokes and other farm implements."

**B. THE REJECTION OF JESUS DID NOT KEEP HIM FROM TEACHING AND PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL**

- He sent out His disciples into surrounding towns and villages.
- **"He commanded them to take nothing for the journey" (v8).** WHY? He wanted them to learn to depend on Him for all of their needs. *Are you depending on Jesus for your needs?*

**C. KING HEROD AND HIS CORRUPT FAMILY REMIND US OF THE TRAGIC NATURE OF SIN**

- **The Problem of Sin.** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23).
- **The Penalty of Sin.** "For the wages of sin is death..." (Rom 6:23)
- **The Plan of Salvation.** "All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isa 53:6).

**CHALLENGE TO CHANGE:**

**God wants to use you!** (Read over v7-13 once again!) Are you willing to 'go' for Jesus? Are you willing to be His witness? As the followers of Jesus, we are sent out with His power. That is all we need. He will take care of the rest. Remember: You will never know God's power in your life until you are willing to step out in faith!