

Only in His Own Hometown

Mark 6:1-16, 30

by Don Falkos

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Jesus went to his hometown; his disciples were with him. On the Sabbath, he taught in the synagogue, and the people were amazed, "Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform miracles?" "Isn't he just the carpenter, Mary's son, the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon?" "Don't his sisters also live right here in Nazareth?" Many were offended and refused to believe in him.

Jesus said, "Only in his own hometown is a prophet without honor." Because of their unbelief he couldn't perform any miracles there except to lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was astounded at their lack of faith.

Jesus called together the Twelve; he gave them authority over evil spirits; then he sent them out two by two, instructing them, "Don't take anything with you except a walking stick – no food, no bag, no money, no extra clothes. When you're welcomed into a home, stay there until you leave that town. If people don't welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a protest against them."

And so the apostles went from place to place encouraging people to turn back to God. They expelled evil spirits and healed the sick wherever they went. When they came back, they told Jesus all about the things they had done.

Many people were talking about Jesus, "He is John the Baptist come back to life. That's why he can do miracles."

"He is the prophet Elijah."

"He's just like one of the ancient prophets."

Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, heard these things and was uneasy, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead."