

Sermon outline notes: Mark Chapter 6 vv 1-29 No Change!

Introduction

Mark again draws together incidents which share the same theme. Each incident in our study illustrates the way in which people said 'No' to Jesus.

1) The rejection of Jesus by his fellow countrymen vv 1-6.

- Jesus' preaching had been outstanding and his reputation for miracles had gone ahead of him.
- Surprised they may have been, but they were not impressed. Gasps of wonder soon turn to sneers of cynicism.

2) The rejection of Jesus' disciples vv 7-13

- Jesus teaches his disciples that rejection (v 11) is a real possibility (see Matthew 10).

3) The rejection of Jesus' herald: John the Baptist vv 14-29.

- John was a truly prophetic character v18.
- Jesus sees great significance in the rejection of John (see Mark 9 vv11-13).

Four Lessons to Learn

- 1) Some people say 'No' to Jesus because their minds are prejudiced against him from the start.
- 2) If we say 'No', Jesus is not going to work a miracle to force us to change our minds vv 5-6.
- 3) If we say 'No' to Jesus, the day will come when he says 'No' to us. In our desire to win people for Christ we must not compromise the message or our methods.

- 4) Jesus does not easily go away. Some find that God's persistent voice haunts their conscience no matter what steps they take to silence it.

Points to Ponder

- 1) Share first reactions to the sermon.
- 2) Do you know people whose familiarity with Jesus has blocked them from seeing who he is? Share examples. How can we help people?
- 3) " Jesus' miracles were designed not to awaken faith, but to confirm it ; not to convince the doubter but to reassure the believer. That's why whenever we see Jesus working miracles there is always beforehand a seed of faith, which the miracle draws out."

How far would you agree with that statement? What is your understanding of the place of miracles, signs and wonders in Christian ministry today?

- 4) Verse 11—how do you think this is to be applied today? When is it time to 'give up' on people with regard to telling/ persuading them about the Christian faith.