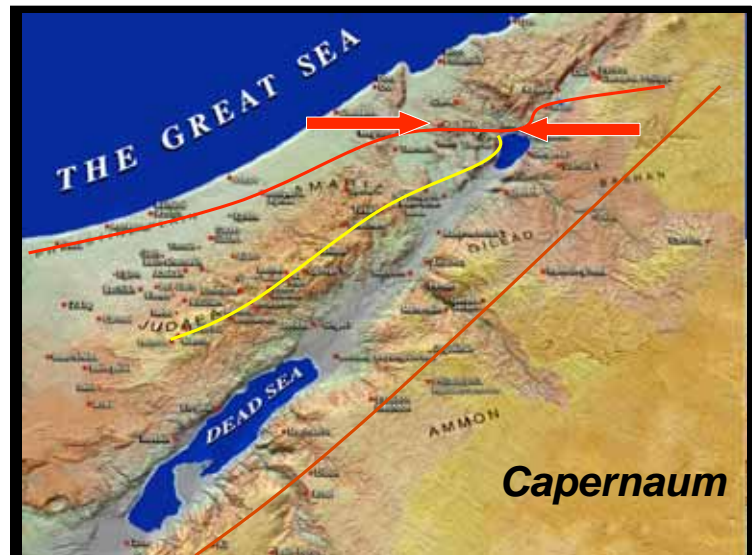


Just a Carpenter? The Deadly Danger of Familiarity

Mark 6:1-6



Rome



Sheep grazing near Nazareth

Mark 5 & 6

- Chapter 5 – Faith!
 - The demoniac (5:15, 18-20)
 - The woman (5:27, 34)
 - Jairus (5:22-23, 36)
- Chapter 6 – Unbelief!
 - The people of Nazareth (6:1-6)
 - Whole towns to which the 12 would go (6:11)
 - Herod (6:14-29)
 - The Twelve (6:52)

“Jesus of Nazareth”

- Cf. 14:67—servant girl to Peter at the trial.
- Cf. John 19:19 – Pilate included it in the statement nailed to the cross.
- Cf. Mark 16:6 – how the angel at the resurrection referred to Him.

Nazareth

- Always called a *polis* and never a *village*.
- < 500 residents
- Bad reputation with Judea.
 - John 1:46 – Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"
- Secluded.
 - Wasn't on a main road.
 - A trade route passed to the south.
 - 15 miles west of the Sea of Galilee.
 - 20 miles east of the Mediterranean.
- Had a synagogue.
- Jesus spent 28 years here.
 - Moved to Nazareth after return from Egypt.
 - After the event at the temple when Jesus was 12, Luke writes...
 - Luke 2:51-52 - He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them.
 - That summarizes the 18 years between 12 years old and 30.

The Anatomy of Unbelief (2-3)

- What they thought...
 - **1) Is not this the carpenter?**
 - Matt. 13:55 - Is not this the carpenter's son?
 - *Carpenter* = "one who makes or produces something."
 - Greek, like English, *builder*; can be a carpenter or a mason, or woodworker.
 - Justin Martyr about 150 AD: "when He was among men He made ploughs and yokes and other farm implements."

I. The Anatomy of Unbelief (2-3)

- **A. The Reason for their unbelief (2-3a)**
 - **2** - When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue, and the many listeners were astonished.
 - **2-3** - saying, "Where did this man *get* these things, and what is *this* wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?"

The Anatomy of Unbelief (2-3)

- What they thought...
 - **1) Is not this the carpenter?**
 - **2) Is not this...the son of Mary?**
 - Nowhere else in the NT.
 - John 8:41 – "You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God."
 - John 9:29 – "We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from."

I. The Anatomy of Unbelief (2-3)

- Their questions...
 - 1) Where did this guy get these things?
 - 2) What is this wisdom given to this guy?
 - 3) Where does He get the power for the miracles He performs with His own hands?

The Anatomy of Unbelief (2-3)

- What they thought...
 - **3) Is not this...the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?**
 - Four brothers (cf. Matt. 13:55)
 - 1) James (in Greek and Hebrew, *Jacob*); next oldest brother; leader of the Jerusalem church.
 - 2) Judas; wrote the book of Jude.
 - 3) Joses (Joseph)
 - 4) Simon
 - "Sisters" (plural)
 - Already married.
 - "Here with us" – lived in Nazareth
 - Matthew implies that Jesus had at least 3 sisters.
 - Matt. 13:56 - "And His sisters, are they not all with us?"
 - So Jesus grew up in a family of at least 7, and probably 8 or more.

Brothers & Sisters?

- 1) Cousins (Jerome)
 - Remains the primary Roman Catholic position.
 - Greek has a word for *cousin*, which the NT writers chose not to use.
 - Greek word *brother* is never used to designate a cousin.

Other Implications of Mark 6:3

- "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?"
 - (1) Joseph had died.
 - (2) Jesus had taken over the family business: "the carpenter."
 - (3) Jesus led the family.

Brothers & Sisters?

- 2) Joseph's children by a previous marriage.
 - Originally proposed to protect the concept of the perpetual virginity of Mary
 - No mention in Scripture
 - Erases Jesus claim to the throne if he wasn't Joseph's firstborn.
 - Doesn't match the NT picture

Jesus' Siblings Response

- All refused to believe him.
 - They thought he was crazy.
 - Mark 3:21, 31-35; cf. Matt. 12:46-50; Luke 8:19-21
 - Their attitude toward Jesus became very clear in an incident just 6 months before His crucifixion.
 - John 7:1-9.
 - Verse 5 – "for not even his brothers were believing on him."

Brothers & Sisters?

- 3) Children were born to Mary and Joseph after Jesus.
 - Matt. 1:18 – "before [Joseph & Mary] came together she was found to be with child"
 - Matt. 1:25 – "[Joseph] kept her a virgin until she gave birth"
 - Luke 2:7 – Jesus is called "her first-born son"; implies there were other children that followed.

I. The Anatomy of Unbelief (2-3)

- **A. The Reason for their unbelief (2-3a)**
- **B. The Result of their unbelief (3b)**
 - **3b - And they took offense at Him.**
 - 8x in Mark's gospel.
 - 4:17; 6:3; 9:42, 43, 45, 47; 14:27, 19
 - Outright denial and rejection