Mark

The **Gospel** of the **Servant of God**

I. The ***Service*** of the **Servant** (1:1-10:52)

A. **His *Preparation*** for **Ministry** (1:1-20)
B. **His *Powerful* Ministry** (1:21-2:12)
C. **His *Pointed* Defense** of **His Ministry** (2:13-3:6)
D. **His *Progressing* Ministry** (3:7-35)
E. **His *Practice*** of **Teaching** in **Parables** (4:1-34)
F. **His *Predominant* Power** (4:35-5:43)

G. **His Preeminence** in **Galilee** (6:1-9:50)

1. The ***Poor*** **Reception** in **Nazareth** (6:1-6a)

6 Jesus went out from **there** and came into **His hometown**;
and **His disciples** followed **Him**.

[2] When the **Sabbath** came, **He** began to ***teach*** in the **synagogue**;
and the *many* **listeners** were ***astonished***, 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**?

[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?" And they **took offense** at **Him**.

[4] **Jesus** said to them,
"A **prophet** is **not without honor *except*** in his **hometown** and among
his *own* **relatives** and in his ***own*** **household**."

[5] And **He** could do **no miracle** there *except*
that **He** laid **His hands** on a **few sick people** and **healed them.**

[6] And **He *wondered*** at their **unbelief**.

2. The ***Pairing*** and **Sending** of the **Twelve** (6:7-13)

And **He** was going around the **villages teaching**.

[7] And **He summoned** the **twelve** and began to **send** them out in ***pairs***,
and **gave** them **authority** over the **unclean spirits;**

[8] and **He instructed** them that they should take **nothing** for *their* **journey,**
except a mere **staff**—***no*** **bread,** ***no*** **bag,** ***no*** **money** in their **belt**—

[9] but *to* **wear sandals**; and *He added*, "Do **not** put on ***two*** **tunics."**

[10] And **He** said to them,
"Wherever you enter a **house**, ***stay*** there **until** you ***leave*** **town.**

[11] Any place that does **not receive you** or **listen to you,**
as you **go out** from there, ***shake*** the **dust** off the **soles** of **your feet**
for a **testimony against them**."

[12] They **went out** and **preached** that *men* should **repent**.

[13] And they were **casting out** many **demons** and were **anointing with oil**
many **sick people** and **healing them**.

Lessons from **Tonight's Text**

A. ***Concerning*** **Messiah's Poor Reception** in **His Hometown** of **Nazareth** (6:1-6a)

1. When **Jesus**, **once again**, was **not received** in **His hometown** of **Nazareth, He** declared:

   "A **prophet** is ***not*** **without honor** ***except*** in his **hometown** and among his *own* **relatives** and in his ***own*** **household**." (6:4)

   This was because **Nazareth** was where **He grew up**, and the people were **"familiar"** with His **humble origins,** and that of **His family**. Because of this **familiarity**, many viewed **Him** with **contempt** (6:2-3).

   As **believers,** ***we too*** should **not** be surprised when **members** of our ***own*** **family**, and close neighborhood **friends reject us,** and the **new life** and **message** we bring concerning the **Messiah.** It is a well-known saying that "**familiarity** breeds **contempt**." The better you **know someone**, the more there is a tendency to **find fault** with **them**.

2. We read tonight that **Jesus** could do **no miracle** in **Nazareth** "except that **He** laid **His hands** on **a few sick people** and **healed them** (6:5)." The lack of **miraculous works** among them at **Nazareth** came as a direct **result** of

their **lack** of **faith** and **unbelief**. We read tonight that **Jesus**:

"...*wondered* at their **unbelief."**

This is a lesson for **believers** in **every age**. How can we *expect* the **Lord** to **work miraculously** among us if we **don't truly believe,** and place our **faith** and **trust in Jesus**?

B. ***Concerning*** **Messiah's Commissioning** of the **Twelve** (6:7-13)

Tonight we read that **Jesus summoned His twelve disciples** and **sent them out** to **minister** among the people in the **villages.** This was in **preparation** for their **future ministry**, as well as the coming **kingdom**. **Jesus** gave them *specific* **instructions**:

1. **He** would **send them out** in **pairs** to **minister.** This **co-laboring** was likely for the purposes of **mutual encouragement** and **strength** as they **ministered** (6:7a).

Two are **better** than **one** because they have a **good return** for their **labor.**
For if **either** of them **falls**, the ***one*** will **lift up** his **companion**...
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a).

2. **He** would **empower them** for **service;** giving the **disciples authority** over **unclean spirits** (6:7b).

3. **He instructed them** to **take nothing** for their **journey**, except a **staff**—**no** bread, **no** bag, **no** money in their belt. They also were to wear **sandals,** and **not** take more than **one tunic** (6:8-9). The **disciples** were to go forth just as **they were**, and **depend upon God** for their everyday **needs**.

4. **He instructed them** that when a **home** was **provided** to them for **shelter**, they were to **stay there** until they **left town** (6:10). They would have one **"base"** for their **operations**. According to one commentator, "the **disciples** were sent ***not*** to be **honored** or **feasted**, but to **call men** to **repentance**, to ***prepare*** the way of **the Lord**, and to **proclaim** that the **kingdom of heaven** was **at hand**."

5. **He instructed His disciples** that if any place did **not receive them,** or **listen** to **them**, they were to **leave** and "**shake** the **dust off** the **soles** of their **feet** (6:11)." This act was symbolic of "a *complete* **break** in **fellowship** and a **renunciation** of all further **responsibility** (Ryrie)." They were to **move on** and **continue** their **ministry** elsewhere.

Personal Application

As **believers**, ***we too*** have been given a **commission** by **the Lord**. It's called the "**Great Commission** (Matthew 28:18-20)." ***We too*** have been **"sent"** by **the Lord** as **messengers** and **ministers** of **His good news** concerning **salvation** and the **kingdom of God**.

1. ***We too*** have been **called to co-labor** with other **believers** in the **work** of the **gospel ministry**. For **we** are **called** to **serve** the **Lord** in **"one body"** with ***many*** **members** (Romans 12:4-8).

2. ***We too*** have been **empowered** by **the Lord** to **serve Him,** through **His Spirit**, that **indwells all believers** (Acts 1:8) (I Cor. 2:4-5).

3. ***We too***, as we seek to **fulfill** our **ministry calling**, are to **trust** that **the Lord** will **provide** for all that **we need** (Matthew 6:31-32) (Philippians 4:19).

4. **Finally, *we also*** need to **know,** that as we declare the **truth** and **message** of the **gospel**, we will face **indifference, rejection**, and even outright **hostility** to our **ministry.** If this be the case it may be necessary, as we read tonight, to **"shake the dust,"** and **move on** to where **the Lord** would **lead** us next (Acts 13:50-51).

This does **not** mean that we should **abandon** our **love** and **concern** for those who **rejected us.** But the "**fields** are **white**" and **ready** to **harvest** (John 4:35), and there ***other*** **ministry opportunities** that **the Lord** has **ordained** for us accomplish.

Closing Comments