

# THE REJECTION OF JESUS' AUTHORITY: WHY JESUS IS REJECTED MARK 06:01–06

## *Introduction: Jesus Christ Rejected*

Jesus' hometown was harsh with Him. Most of His neighbours could never accept the fact that He was the Messiah. The fact that a person from their midst could really be the true Messiah, the Son of God, was beyond their comprehension. There were some who were envious and jealous of the prominence and esteem He had achieved. Unacceptance, unbelief, and rumours about Him were widespread among His own people; and their unbelief led them to do some terrible things.

=> Some in the city tried to kill Him.

=> Some friends and neighbours considered Him mad or insane - out of his mind so they went after Him to take Him home (Mk. 3:20-21; Lk. 4:16-30).

=> His family was extremely embarrassed by His claims and the wild rumours surrounding Him (Mk. 3:31-32).

The most severe critics of a man's life and work are, of course, those who have always known him.

I. Jesus was in His hometown, Nazareth (v. 1-2).

II. Some questioned His source of authority (v. 2-3).

III. Some were offended by Him: They thought of Him only as one of their own (v. 3-4).

IV. Some blocked God's power (v. 5).

V. Some were gripped with unbelief - shockingly so (v. 6).

## **I. *Mark 06:01–02 Jesus Christ's Hometown***

Jesus left Capernaum and returned to His hometown, Nazareth. Nazareth was the city where He had grown up as a child and young man. Note that the hometown folks did not flock to Him like they had everywhere else. From all indications, He had no opportunity to preach and teach until the Sabbath. When the Sabbath came, He entered the synagogue and began to teach. His teaching was powerful, extremely impressive — so much so that many were astonished and amazed at the ability and the force of what the hometown boy had to say.

**Thought 1.** Jesus was perfectly obedient to the Father (Heb. 5:8). He lived and moved and had His being in the Father. This, of course, is the key to the believer's power in life and ministry. Power living, power preaching, and power teaching all come from the presence of God Himself.

**Acts 1:8** “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

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**Eph 1:19-20** *And his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.*

**Eph 3:20** *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.*

**2 Tim 1:7-8** *For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.*

## II. **Mark 06:02–03** *Accusations Against Jesus Christ*

Some questioned Jesus' source of authority. There were two primary reasons for this.

1. Jesus did not have the right credentials and education. His wisdom could not be denied; neither could the mighty works which He had done elsewhere be denied. The people even recognized that His wisdom and power were a given wisdom and power (v. 2), but they could not understand from where and from whom He had received these.

Their question was a good one; it was the right question to ask. It showed that they were thinking about Him, but they were making a mistake. Why? Because they were unwilling to acknowledge that He had personally come from God (Lk. 4:16-21; Jn. 10:30-38).

Jesus lacked proper credentials and education (Mt. 13:54-56.) They recognized his unusual wisdom and works. They heard His wisdom and saw His works, but they understood neither. They would not acknowledge that He had really come from God.

**Thought 1.** Many judge others by their ....

- education
- success
- name
- prestige
- fame
- heritage
- social status
- achievement
- wealth
- roots
- position

2. Jesus was from human and humble beginnings. His family was humble and ordinary — just an average family and nothing more. His father, Joseph, was a carpenter; His mother, Mary, was a housewife and mother. His family had offered him no social or educational advantage. They were just common, ordinary folk, none of whom had ever achieved anything significant; yet, here He was teaching as a great Rabbi. How could Jesus possibly be who He was claiming to be: the Messiah, God's very Son?

**Thought 1.** The basic problem with Jesus' home-folk was envy and jealousy. They begrudged Jesus the honour and esteem that was being given Him by so many. He had become far more famous than any of them, and most of them had held so much more advantage and promise as children. They were just unwilling to admit that Jesus was really who He claimed to be (Lk. 4:16-24). They resented His claims, resented them so much that they became stiff-necked, giving themselves over to obstinate unbelief.

**John 8:19** Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also."

**Jer 5:4** I thought, "These are only the poor; they are foolish, for they do not know the way of the Lord, the requirements of their God."

**Micah 4:12** But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord; they do not understand his plan, he who gathers them like sheaves to the threshing floor.

### MARK 06:03 ACCUSATIONS AGAINST JESUS CHRIST

*"Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. **Mark 06:03***

Jesus was not just being rejected — He was being sneered at and despised (Isa. 53:3). Contrary to their claims, He had not come from such a humble place as Nazareth, but He had come to Nazareth, come to seek and save those who had been His neighbours.

**Isa 9:6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Micah 5:2** "But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

**Phil 2:5-8** Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! □

### III. **Mark 06:03–04 Jesus Christ, Rejected**

Some were offended by Him, offended because they thought of Him only as one of their own.

**John 1:10-11** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

**Rom 10:3** Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

**Eph 4:18** They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Jesus was rejected because people were offended by Him. The literal meaning of offended is stumbling. His neighbours and friends stumbled over Him. They could not imagine that someone from their own house — someone whom they knew and had known from childhood — could be the Messiah, the Son of God.

They could not imagine that someone who had been born in their own country and lived among them could be making the claims that He was making. A man who ate, drank, worked and slept among them had no right to speak and make such claims.

Note that Jesus identified three groups who were offended and doing dishonour to Him.

1. "His own hometown": who attempted to kill Him (Lk. 4:16-30).
2. "His own kin": friends and neighbours who thought Him insane (See Response to Jesus Christ, Mk. 3:20-21).
3. "His own family": family members who were embarrassed by His claims and the neighbours' talk (Mk. 3:31-32).

**Thought 1.** One thing that God abhors is envy, resenting the gifts given to others. God bestows gifts as He wills to help mankind in its desperate plight. He expects the gifts to be used, and He expects all to encourage one another in the use of those gifts.

*1 Cor 4:7 For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?*

*1 Cor 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

*Gal 5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

### MARK 03:20–21 RESPONSE TO JESUS CHRIST

From this point to the end of the chapter Mark shows the difference between the feelings of the crowd and the feelings of others about Jesus. In verse 20 he shows the feelings and the support of the crowd. Then he shows the enormous contrast of the feelings of three groups who should have been the very ones to support Jesus. There are the contrasting feelings...

- of His friends (or family) — who charged Him with being mad and insane (Mk. 3:21).
- of the religionists — who charged Him with being demon-possessed (Mk. 3:22-30).
- of His very own family — who charged Him with being an embarrassment (Mk. 3:31-35).

In the present passage, the contrast between the feelings of the crowd and Jesus' friends is clearly seen. And in the contrast much is to be learned. □

#### **IV. Mark 06:05 Unbelief and Rejection of Jesus Christ**

Some blocked God's power for the whole community. Their obstinate unbelief, questioning, rumours and repulsion toward Jesus kept most away. Only a few sick folk were healed.

**Thought 1.** A man's unbelief affects and influences others. It keeps others away from Christ. What an awful responsibility — a terrible accounting — for one's own family and neighbours and country.

**Mat 18:6** *“But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.”*

**Mat 23:13** *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.”*

**Rom 14:13** *Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.*

**1 John 2:10** *Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.*

**Thought 2.** Note that Christ tried to reach all three segments of society during His lifetime. Every believer is responsible to reach out to the same three segments of society. We shall be held accountable for how faithfully we reach out.

#### **V. Mark 06:06 Shocking Unbelief and Rejection**

Some were gripped with unbelief — shockingly so ( Mt. 13:58). Note the words, “He was amazed at their lack of faith.” They had His presence, His wisdom, and the testimony of His mighty works. They had His power to help them in all their need, yet they stayed away from His meetings. They would not come to Him. In pride, they refused to trust and believe Him. The situation amazed Jesus

Their unbelief was just incredible, but He had to accept their rejection. He could not force Himself upon them, so He left town and travelled to all the villages surrounding Nazareth.

**Thought 1.** Unbelief is shocking. It is an amazing thing to think that any man would ever reject the salvation of Christ — the salvation that delivers man from sin, death, and judgment to come, and that Christ enriches and enhances life so much (Gal. 5:22-23. See *Jesus and The Mission of Jesus*, Mt. 1:21; See 2 Cor. 3:17-18; *Forgiveness*, Eph. 1:7; see Rom. 8:28-39.)

**Mat 13:15** *“For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.”*

**Job 21:14** *Yet they say to God, ‘Leave us alone! We have no desire to know your ways.’* ■

### MATHEW 01:21 JESUS (IESOUS)

The name Jesus means Saviour; He will save. The Hebrew form is Joshua (yasha), meaning Jehovah is salvation; He is the Saviour. The idea is that of deliverance, of being saved from some terrible disaster that leads to destruction (see Jn. 3:16; Rom. 8:3; Gal. 1:4; Heb. 2:14-18; 7:25). □

### MATHEW 01:21 MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST: SALVATION

*“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” **Mathew 01:21***

The statement “He will save his people from their sins” is full of meaning.

1. The word save or salvation means to deliver. A person is saved from perishing, being lost, from being utterly destroyed, from being a spiritual destitute, from being cut off. It is Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, who saves.
2. The words “His people” are significant. It infers that all people are not “His people.”  
***John 10:26–27** “But you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”*
3. The words “from their sins” mean that Christ saves His people from:
  - the power of sin
  - the bondage of sin
  - the guilt of sin
  - the consequences of sin

Note Rev. 14:4 where Christ is said to redeem believers “from among men [worldly men]”. Note also Heb. 7:26 where Christ is said to be “set apart from sinners”. The believer is called to separation: to live away from, above and over sin; to conquer sin; to live victoriously over sin. □

### EPHESIANS 01:07 FORGIVENESS

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. **Ephesians 01:07***

The word forgiveness (aphesin) means to send off, to send away, to release, to let go. The word for sin (paraptomaton) means transgression, trespass, a falling by the way, or deviating from the way. All men...

- have transgressed the law of God
- have deviated from God
- have fallen from the way of God



Therefore, all men stand guilty of having broken the law of God. and the penalty for breaking the law is death. However, the blood of Jesus Christ brings forgiveness to men. How? Jesus Christ died for man. He took the penalty of sins and bore the punishment Himself. He was able to do this because He was the Perfect and Ideal Man, and as the Ideal Man, He could stand for and represent all men. When He died, He died as the Ideal Man, as the Representative for all men. Any person who really believes that Jesus Christ died for him is forgiven his sins. God takes his faith and counts it as the death of Jesus Christ. God sees the man as being in Jesus Christ, as being in the death of Jesus Christ. God counts the death of Jesus Christ for the death of the man. Therefore, the guilt and penalty for breaking God's laws are completely removed. The man's sins and guilt are sent away or washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ.

*Acts 5:31* God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.

*Acts 13:38* "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you."

*Acts 26:18* To open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me [Christ Jesus].

*Eph 1:7* In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. □