

# THE PERILS OF FAMILIARITY

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Mark 6:1-6**

**(ESV)**

*[1] He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. [2] And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? [3] Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. [4] And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." [5] And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. [6] And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.*

## INTRODUCTION

**Matthew 7:22–23**—"On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' [23] And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

Salvation does not come to those who know of Christ, but to those who know Christ.

## TAKING JESUS FOR GRANTED

Nazareth

- About 20 miles from Capernaum
- One day journey
- Not a very significant town
- 60 acres / 500 inhabitants

It is possible to rightly assess who Jesus is and yet reject him.

**James 2:19**—*You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!*

*skandalizó* = offensive / stumbling block

Proximity to Jesus without regeneration creates inoculation.

We need regeneration.

Regeneration is the internal change that God works in our hearts through his Spirit.

**Ezekiel 36:26**—*And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

**John 3:3**—*“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

## THE CONSEQUENCES OF FAITHLESSNESS

To reject one who speaks on behalf of God is to reject God himself.

**2 Chronicles 36:15–16**—*The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. [16] But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against his people, until there was no remedy.*

**John 1:11**—*He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.*

God redeems failures, but he does not redeem faithlessness.

The sovereign power of God does not nullify the necessity of men’s response of faith.

If we don’t believe Jesus, we will not ultimately see his power in our lives.

What impresses Jesus is simple faith in a great savior.

**Hebrews 11:6**—*And without faith it is impossible to please him...*

**Isaiah 53:3**

*He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*