

MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

THIRD DIVISION

III 4:31-7:23 *WHERE DOES THE MESSIAH WANT TO ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM?*

SECOND SECTION: *IN THE SOCIETY?*

Mark 6:1-29

MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

THIRD DIVISION

III. 4:35-7:23 WHERE DOES THE MESSIAH ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM?

<i>THE UNIVERSE</i>	<i>SOCIETY</i>	<i>THE HEART</i>
<p>4:35-41 The storm</p> <p>Power over the elements of wind and sea</p>	<p>6:1-6 Jesus in Nazareth</p> <p>Jesus “rejected” in home town and amongst relatives</p>	<p>6:30-56 Apostles and crowds</p> <p>The “<u>hard</u> hearts” of the apostles</p>
<p>5:1-20 “Legion”</p> <p>Power over thousands of demons</p>	<p>6:7-13 Disciples in the cities</p> <p>Warned of “rejection” in the cities where they preach repentance</p>	<p>7:1-13 Pharisees' tradition</p> <p>They honor me with their lips but their “hearts are <u>faraway</u>”</p>
<p>5:21-43 The sick and dead</p> <p>Power over sickness and death</p>	<p>6:14-29 John at Herod’s court</p> <p>“John is risen” - John “rejected” before Herod's court</p>	<p>7:14-23 From within man</p> <p>The sins of the “<u>unclean</u> heart”</p>

MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

THIRD DIVISION

III 4:31-7:23 *WHERE DOES THE MESSIAH WANT TO ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM?*

SECOND SECTION: *IN THE SOCIETY?*

Mark 6:1-29

Corresponding PowerPoint® presentation:

091_Mark_PREACHERS_Society_3rd_division_2nd_section_presentation

The outline:

Jesus' power over the universe
Jesus and his people in society
If only God would sort things out!
If they have done so much good why are they rejected?

I. Jesus visited Nazareth 6:1-6

Jesus was *rejected* in his hometown, amongst his relatives and neighbors
Where did he get all this from?
Offended, but why?
A few responded
What *might* God do in your city or county?

II. The twelve disciples sent out to preach 6:7-13

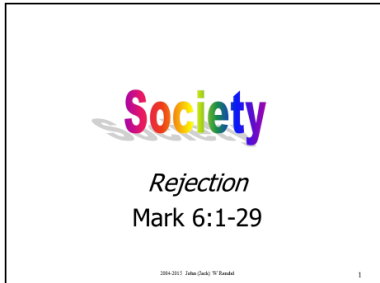
Jesus warned them of the *rejection* they may face in certain places
Oh, how very worthwhile!
Crazy or rebellious?
Rejected in his country

III. John has risen from the dead! 6:14-29

Herod asked who Jesus was
Herod sat on the fence
Fables in Granada
Hanging horrors

Questions to aid in the study of this section: Mark 6:1-29

MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL



Jesus' power over the universe

We have seen already how Jesus showed his great power over the elements calming the wind and the sea. We saw also how he was able with a few words to deliver a man controlled by "Legion". He showed his power over an incurable illness, unsuccessfully treated by doctors, and over death, raising a young girl from the dead.

The image shows a table with the following text:

Mark: Our preaching manual
Where?

	Society?	
	Nazareth	
	The cities	
	The palace	

At the bottom left, there is a small copyright notice: "©2001-2015 John (Jack) W Rendel". At the bottom right, there is a small number "2".

Jesus and his people in society

Now John Mark takes us to 3 more scenes that deal with 3 areas of society, which are:

1. One's home town
2. Cities in general
3. The royal court

The town is that of Jesus, where he grew up, the town of Nazareth. The cities were those to which Jesus sent his 12 disciples to preach. The court was that of King Herod, the supposed king of Israel.

If only God would sort things out!

Sometimes I hear people say, "I wish God would bring some justice to this world and put things in order around here!" They complain of the terrible state of society. In these three scenes that we'll look at now, we will see how Jesus, the 12 disciples and John the Baptist are treated by society. After demonstrating what they say and do is exactly what society needs, they are rejected in the hometown, the cities and the royal court.

If they have done so much good why are they rejected?

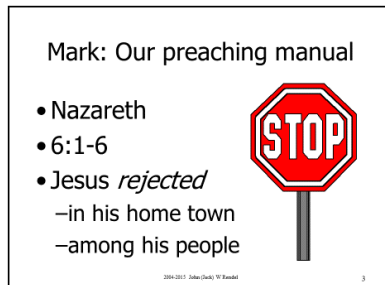
A question immediately arises. Having done so much on behalf of their society why do the people of their society reject them? This makes no sense. But will God change the society or the

MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

individual hearts of those who make up that society? The third section of this part of the gospel will answer that basic question.

Meanwhile let us look at what occurs in the 3 stories, found in chapter 6, beginning with verse 1 to 29.

I. Jesus visited Nazareth 6:1-6



Jesus was *rejected* in his hometown, amongst his relatives and neighbors

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee preaching and he finally came to the town where he grew up, the town of Nazareth. He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, as usual, and taught the people. The text gives the impression he was in Nazareth several days before the day of rest arrived. Those who heard him were amazed, and asked where he had gotten the things he did, the wisdom with which he spoke and the miracles that he performed. He had spent years growing up amongst them and they had never heard him say the things he said in the synagogue nor seen him perform such miracles!

Now he spoke with great wisdom and does wonderful signs. Some may have noticed that Jesus disappeared from Nazareth for a time. He had gone to the Jordan to be baptized by John. Then he went into the desert for 40 days. He returned to Galilee and not much later began to preach. Compared to the years he spent in Nazareth he had spent just a short time away in the last months. As the people in Nazareth had not seen Jesus do the things he was presently doing, they wondered why he was able to suddenly speak with so much wisdom and perform such miracles.

Where did he get all this from?

Jesus had never studied in Jerusalem. He had not obtained the things he did from the doctors of the law nor from the religious leaders of Israel. John the Baptist would have been able to have taught him something, but John did not do miracles. Maybe he lived with an isolated religious community that lived in the desert? But those communities were not known for doing great miracles. They did not know of any contact that Jesus might have had with the pagan mystery religions. Where did Jesus get these things?

Offended, but why?

The Nazarenes went still further, not only were they amazed, they were offended! They knew all Jesus' family and even named them. They would have thought, this man has received everything he knows and does, from us. He has lived here for years. But it was obvious that Jesus had received incredible things, not from them, but from someone or somewhere else. They could not

MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

accept the harsh reality that Jesus had not received all the greatest things he had, from them, so they rejected him.

Now, this story does not explain where Jesus got his wisdom and power, but we know, having read the first part of the gospel, that he received those things that he did from the Father in heaven, and through the person of the Holy Spirit. Later Peter explained it all to the centurion Cornelius, at his home with his whole family gathered around him. Peter preached that Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit and power and went about all the land of the Jews preaching, healing the people oppressed by the devil, because God was with him (Acts 10:37-38).

The people of Nazareth were offended, so Jesus could not do any great miracles amongst them. He only healed a few sick people. He might have done so much more for them! Jesus used a saying about prophets in their own country, that they weren't accepted. The same things can occur nowadays with the person who wants to preach in his own town and his own family. Even when you offer proof of a great change in your life, and you share the good news about Jesus and his salvation, it is possible that the people who know us the best, reject us.

A few responded

But before leaving this scene let's think about those few that were healed. As in all cases there are exceptions, here there were as well. The majority of the people of Nazaret were offended, but a few received the blessing. It is possible that in your town and in your family the same may happen. Keep this in mind so that you don't get too discouraged about your family and their response to the gospel.

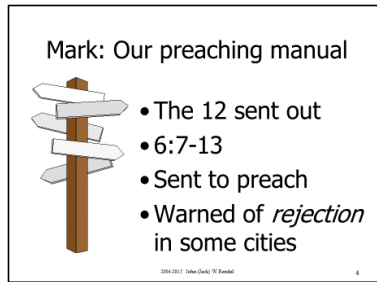
What *might* God do in your city or county?

There is something else. The Lord teaches us to pray and to ask for good things from our Father in heaven, according to Matthew 7:7-11, *7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened (AV/ KJV1769)*. Have you ever stopped to think of what the Lord might be able to do in your town, amongst your family and through your church? Could people commit their lives to the Lord every week? Could there be baptisms every month? Could the Lord give your church 10% of your city or county? Here in the county of Clare, in the state of Michigan, live some 33,000 inhabitants. If the Lord gave us 10% of the county our church would have around 3,300 persons attending. It would be a very large local church! And if our church sent 2% of the congregation as missionaries, it would send some 66 persons. Every 50 people of the church would have the responsibility of supporting one of those missionaries. You might say that all this is impossible and you'd be right. We can pray for this to happen but yet ultimately leave it all in the hands of the Lord. The Lord can do such a thing but we don't know if and when he might do it. If we pray maybe he will do it in our children's lifetime. But, what if he doesn't do it? As we pray for growth in depth and numbers the Lord can bring much blessing to our area.

You do the figures for the town or county where you live. Remember, 10% AND 2% are not some magical numbers. They are simply some examples of what we could pray for. You pray for what God puts on your heart.

MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

II. The twelve disciples sent out to preach 6:7-13



Jesus warned them of the *rejection* they may face in certain places

Jesus sent his disciples out two by two. He gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He also gave them instructions about what they should take on the journey. They were not to carry anything. Aside from being a relatively short trip he gave them instructions to stay in the homes that extended them a welcome. In those homes they would feed them and give them lodging. They did not have to carry either bags, or blankets, or an extra coat, or money. They should go wearing sandals. And if in some place they did not receive them, they were to shake the dust of their feet off as a witness against them.

Oh, how very worthwhile!

That is to say, they were to travel from city in city, not depending on what they carried, but on what the population gave them. How can anyone compare a little room and board given, with the great blessings that the twelve brought with them to the people? The twelve preached repentance; they cast out demons; and they anointed with oil those who were sick and healed them. It would be entirely worth while to the villagers of Israel to exchange a little lodging for this physical and spiritual bounty!

Crazy or rebellious?

The surprising thing is to hear Jesus warn them, that, in one or another city, they would be rejected! How could people reject blessings so obvious and so great? Were these people crazy? Crazy they were not, rebellious, yes! There is something in man that rejects the good things that the God of the Bible offers. In the last scenes of this part of the gospel the Lord would speak about those things in man that cause him to react as if he were a lunatic.

Could it be possible that the message of repentance had created problems for the disciples? To be free of demons, yes, people wanted that! To be healed of illnesses, yes, that too! But to examine one's motives, one's thoughts, one's attitudes and one's works, this would be meddling in the affairs of another, and not acceptable! Who are you to judge me?

Well they did cast out many demons and they healed many people. Glory to God!

At the same time the twelve were also representatives of Jesus. Everyone knew they were Jesus' disciples! To this day anyone following and representing Jesus runs a risk, and not just among those of other religions and regimes, but also in countries known as "Christian countries".

MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

Rejected in his country

“Ziwar M_____ I _____ was shot dead on Monday, February 17, 2002, at 8:30 in the morning in the city of Z_____ in the [north of his country]. Born in [the majority religion] he became a Christian seven years ago, and was openly talking about his faith. He left behind a widow and five children.

“Ziwar was very committed to his Christian faith. Twice he had been arrested but never charged. Several times his family and others of [his former religion] had threatened him. To his friends he affirmed his devotion, ‘With Jesus on my side I have nothing to fear!’

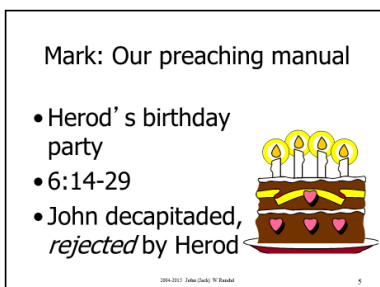
“Ziwar was a taxi driver by profession. On that Monday he was at the taxi rank when a man, Abd al-K_____ A__ al-S_____, started to talk with him trying to persuade him to return to [his former religion]. When Ziwar refused A__ al-S_____ pulled an automatic rifle and sprayed Ziwar with bullets. The assassin tried to run away. However other taxi drivers reportedly chased him, caught him, and he is now in police custody. He told police that the M_____ prophet, M_____, appeared to him in a dream and told him to kill Ziwar.

“Z_____ is under [a regional] administration. [Most people of that region in that land] follow a tolerant form of their majority religion. However, there are minority groups who take a more hard line view. At the time authorities were investigating whether A__ al-S_____ acted alone or had links to armed [religious] groups.

“That was the first known murder of a Christian convert from [the majority religion] to Christianity in [the northern part of the country] in five years.” (*International Update*, March 25, 2002, G.V.)

Let's go now to the court of King Herod. Surely a man so elevated in position amongst people known as God's people, would understand how important it was to walk before the Lord with great care, to repent, do good and in this way receive all the blessing God wanted to pour down on him and his kingdom. We shall soon see!

III. John has risen from the dead! 6:14-29



Herod asked who Jesus was

King Herod had a problem. He was not sure who Jesus was. Everyone talked about him and mentioned his name. It was a little like it is amongst those who follow basketball when they mention the name Michael Jordan. Some said that Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead. Others said that he was Elijah, the one that was to come. Herod agreed with those who said

MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

that he was John. Maybe this was because his conscience bothered him. Not knowing who Jesus was, was embarrassing! After all he was the king and should know these things! His "FBI", or as in the UK, his "CID", wasn't up to standard!

Herod sat on the fence

John had told Herod that it was not lawful to have the wife of his brother Phillip, whose name was Herodias. Herod felt confused and uncertain about the matter. He did not know that to do with John. Herodias held a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. Herod, on the other hand feared him, knowing that he was a holy and just man, and he liked to listen to him. So He protected John, holding him in prison.

But his brother's wife would force him to make a decision about John. Herod's birthday arrived. During the banquet he threw, the daughter of Herodias danced before all Herod's court, and Herod was so impressed that offered her up to half of his kingdom. The girl left to confer with her mother and her mother demanded the head of John on a platter. Herod was very sad to hear this request but he did what she asked. And we need not be surprised at this. The kings of that time would do worse things without thinking twice. Herod beheaded John, and delivered his head to the girl. She gave it to her mother.

Fables in Granada

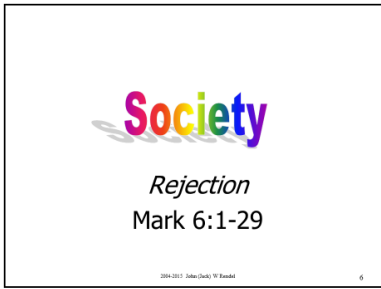
We had the opportunity to enjoy a "tour" of a cathedral in one of the countries where we were ministering. The guide took us from room to room. In one of them we noticed a head severed from the body lying on a shelf. When we asked what it was, the guide said that it was the head of John the Baptist - the real head of John the Baptist. He surprised us still more when he added that in his country, in four other locations, they had more authentic heads of John the Baptist!

So, of course, we asked the guide about the case of John the Baptist. How did John get his head cut off? Well, he began to tell us the story. He said that 2000 years ago, in the times of Jesus, there was a king and a prophet, by the name of John the Baptist. The king and the prophet both fell in love with the same maiden. And because the king wielded more influence and was more powerful, he killed the prophet, and he took the woman. For many people it's all the same whether the guide knew the true story or not. For those who know the Bible, they know that guide's story is not correct. In fact, sometimes you hear fantastic things from people, when it has to do with biblical events. It is evident that the Word of God is not taught to the masses, or that the masses of people do not attend church, or do not listen to preachers. Those, called Christian leaders, who do not teach the Bible will have to give account to God, for abandoning his word.

Hanging horrors

Pastors have been assassinated for the testimony of Christ in countries of the Middle East. One pastor was hung by the neck, from a tree near the capital of a southern province of one of those countries. The authorities said it was a suicide, but it was reported that anyone could see from the wounds on his body that he had been mistreated, tortured, and killed.

MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL



But there will be more on this topic when we study the last three scenes of this division of the gospel. If I am a pastor, or missionary, or preacher, or evangelist, how will I escape condemnation if I don't preach the gospel truthfully? The Apostle Peter said that he and the apostles did not follow cunningly devised fables! Have you thought about taking some time to pray for your pastor; the pastors of other churches of your city, if there are any; and for evangelists and missionaries to be faithful to the gospel, and to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Do it and you will see how the Lord blesses you and them!

Questions to aid in the study of this section, Mark 6:1-29

1. Make a short list of instances in which you were rejected because you shared the gospel with another person. Make a list of times when you were afraid you might be rejected for sharing the gospel.
2. If you were rejected for sharing the gospel what would you suffer? Mocking? Loss of your job? Threats? Ostracism? Loss of family? Loss of property? Death?
3. What exactly did Jesus suffer in Nazareth? 6:1-6
4. What were the disciples warned about as they went 2 by 2 through the cities? &:7-13
5. What did John suffer? What did he do that led to his suffering? 6:14-29
6. Can you find any stories of rejection in the newsletters or reports you receive from missionaries you support?