GOING HOME

 **DATE: 1/28/2018 – 2/18/2018 SS**

**TEXT: Mark 6:1-6**

**INTRODUCTION**

A man by the name of Thomas Wolfe wrote a novel entitled “*You Can't Go Home Again*”

The book is about a man named George Webber

George is an author who had written a successful book about his hometown

When he returns home, he expects to receive a hero's welcome

Instead, he is driven out of town by his friends and family

They feel betrayed by what he has written about them in his book

Webber is shaken by their reaction to his work and leaves his hometown behind

George Webber discovered that those who know you best tend to respect you the least

Our text finds Jesus returning to Nazareth

He is going home again

Our Lord's return to His hometown does not go the way one might expect it to

After all, Jesus is something of a celebrity by this time

He has been going around the countryside preaching, teaching, healing the sick, casting out demons, raising the dead and controlling the forces of nature

He has proven that there is something very special and very different about Him

Of course, the last time Jesus was in Nazareth things didn't go too well for Him either

We see in **Luke 4:16-20** that He went to the synagogue and preached from **Isaiah 61**

In that service, Jesus proclaimed to be the Messiah

The people of Nazareth rejected His message and tried to kill Him by throwing Him off a cliff!

He left Nazareth and preached in other places in Galilee

Now, a year later He returns to the very place He was so cruelly rejected

He wants to give His family, His friends and His neighbors another chance to receive Him and His message

That’s Grace!

I am amazed that God would give you and I any chance,

Much less opportunity after opportunity to believe in Him and His Gospel!

Thank God for His Great Grace!

When Jesus arrives in Nazareth, it doesn’t seem that He is greeted by anxious crowds

It seems (rather) that they ignored Him until the Sabbath Day came and they all went to the synagogue

I want to consider our Lord's visit to Nazareth

What happened there has something to say to those who are saved and to those who aren’t

What is really interesting is the people's reaction to the Lord's Preaching and His Person

Their reaction cost them His Power

Let's take a look at the events of that Sabbath Day visit to the synagogue in Nazareth

Let's notice the *ways* the people responded to the Lord and what their response cost them

I want to begin teaching on this thought …

**“Going Home”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. HIS “PREACHING” – v. 2**

The People Were Shocked by His Preaching

**A. The People’s ‘Astonishment’ – v. 2 a**

***“And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing Him were astonished,”***

When Jesus began to speak, the people who heard Him, we are told, were **“*astonished*”**

This word means *to be seized with panic; to be struck with terror; it is startling and sudden alarm*

When they heard Jesus, they were actually filled with **fear**

**B. The People’s ‘Amazement’ – v. 2 b**

***“saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto Him, that even such mighty works are wrought by His hands?”***

They immediately began to question 3 areas of the Lord's ministry

**1.** They Questioned His Words

***“From whence hath this man these things?”***

When Jesus preached, He did so with grace and charm

His words were filled with divine authority

He did not speak like the local rabbis

The Rabbi’s just parroted what they were taught

They quoted other rabbis and had no sense of certainty in their words

When Jesus spoke, He did so with the sense that He knew what He was talking about

He left no doubt in the minds of His hearers that His words must either be accepted or rejected

He left His hearers no wiggle room

In fact, when some officers were sent from the Pharisees to hear what Jesus had to say, they came back and said –

**John 7:46 - “*Never man spake like this man*”**

When the people of Nazareth heard Jesus speak, they were Amazed

**2.** They Questioned His Wisdom

***“and what wisdom is this which is given unto Him,”***

When Jesus spoke, His words were filled with truth

The people heard Him declare old truths in new ways

They listened as He taught spiritual truth by using the common everyday things around them

While His illustrations may have called on the common,

The truth He preached was anything but common

The Lord's wisdom left them shaking their heads in disbelief

**3.** They Questioned His Works

***“that even such mighty works are wrought by His hands?”***

The Lord's fame had preceded Him to Nazareth

They had heard about the miracles He had performed elsewhere

They could not believe that this young man that grew up among them could be doing the miracles that were attributed to Him

The people of Nazareth could not believe What they were hearing and Who they were hearing it from

They heard what Jesus had to say and they were shocked at His Preaching

**C. The Same ‘Affects’ are seen Today**

Our Lord's message still affects people that way

When you read the Bible and study the message of the Gospel, it can cause you to be astonished

Consider some of the claims of the Bible

-- All people are sinners

**Romans 3:23 *– “For all have sinned, and come …***

***… short of the glory of God;”***

**Galatians 3:22 a *– “But the scripture hath concluded all under sin,”***

-- All sinners are headed to a place called Hell

**Psalm 9:17 *– “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God”***

**Romans 2:8, 9 –** ***“But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,” “Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;”***

-- There is only one way to be saved from sin

**Acts 4:12 *– “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”***

**I John 5:12 *– “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life”***

-- All other religions in the world are false religions and they all lead to Hell

**John 3:18, 36 *– “He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth***

***… not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him”***

-- The only way for anyone to be saved is for them to place their faith in a man Who lived, died and rose again from the dead 2,000 years ago

**John 14:6 *– “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me”***

**John 10:9 *– “I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture”***

Those are amazing claims because they condemn much of the world to a lost eternity

When people today hear the claims of the Gospel, they react in anger

They reject the message and attack the messenger, just as they did in Jesus' day

What do you think … when you hear the claims of the Gospel?

Do you rejoice in its truth, knowing that it has saved your soul?

Or, do you hear it and reject its message,

Thinking you know a better way?

**Proverbs 16:25 *– “There is a way that seemeth right…***

***… unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”***

**HIS “PREACHING”**

Next they Rejected …

**II. HIS “PERSON” – v. 3**

The People Stumbled Over His Person

***“Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not His sisters here with us? And they were offended at Him”***

**A. They ‘Rejected’ His Message**

As the people of Nazareth heard the message Jesus was preaching,

They Rejected His Message because they thought they knew everything there was to know about Him

**1. *“Is not this the carpenter”***

They knew His occupation

They call Him **“*the carpenter*”**

A carpenter in those days did not always build houses

Sometimes they would build things like tables, chairs, beds, etc.

Typically, they built ox yokes and plows

Sometimes, the word carpenter referred to men who could do anything from carving a plate to building a house

The carpenter was the person who worked with wood

The people of Nazareth probably had things in their possession that Jesus had built for them

They saw Him as a common craftsman

They looked at Him and said - “*You are no better than we are! Why should we listen to you?*”

**2.** Just a Common Man

***“Is not this, … the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us?”***

He had grown up among them and was one of their own

They had seen Him play there as a child; they knew His family; they thought they knew Him

They knew that He had never been to divinity school

They knew that He had no formal training

They knew everything there was to know about Jesus,

Or so they thought!

To them, Jesus was just another boy from Nazareth

He did not deserve their respect

They saw Him as a common man!

We are told that …

**B. They were ‘Offended’ in Him**

The word **“*offended*”** has the idea of *causing to stumble or to be repelled to the point of abandonment*

Because these people could not explain Jesus, they refused to listen to Jesus

They could not see past the carpenter; and they refused to receive their theology from a common carpenter

These people did what all people do when they cannot understand someone

They resorted to ridicule!

Ridicule is the final refuge of a small mind!

They called Him **“*the son of Mary*”**

This was never done in that society!

A male was always referred to as the son of his father, even if his father was dead

To call a boy the son of his mother was to imply that is mother had played the harlot

The people were calling the birth of Jesus into question

Of course, the people of that day rejected the notion that Jesus was born by supernatural means through a virgin womb

They consistently called His birth into question

**John 8:41 *– “Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to Him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God”***

**John 9:29 *– “We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence He is”***

The people of Nazareth could not explain Jesus,

So they reacted to His Words, His Wisdom and His Works with contempt and ridicule

Listen to the contempt in their voices in **v. 2** as they say - **“*from whence hath this man these things?*”**

These people could not accept what they could not explain!

**C. We do the ‘Same’ today**

This state of mind is still around

People reject what they cannot easily explain

When it comes to Jesus there is a lot that cannot be explained to people's satisfaction

People seem to have little trouble with the manger scene

They seem to be able to accept a little, harmless baby lying in a manger

But, when you tell people that the little baby was born of a virgin and that He is God in the flesh, they can't handle that!

People seem to have little trouble with Jesus going about from place to place preaching His message of peace, love and acceptance like some philosopher

But, when you tell them that He is the only Saviour and that rejecting Him will lead to Hell, they can't handle that!

People seem to have no problem with a dead Jesus hanging in shame on a cross

But, when you tell them that He rose again after He died and that He still lives today to save all those who will accept Him by faith, they can't handle that!

If your concept of Who Jesus is stops with a baby in a manger or a dead man on a cross, you are missing the whole point!

You must come to the place where you understand that Jesus Christ is the very Son of God, as declared in …

**John 3:16 *– “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”***

You must understand that He died for your sins on the cross and that He rose again from the dead,

**Romans 10:9 *– “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved”***

You must come to a place where you turn from your sins, and believe on Jesus for your soul's salvation or you have no hope of Heaven,

**Romans 10:13 *– “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”***

There is much about Jesus, the Bible and the Gospel that I do not understand

I can't figure out why He would love me

I can't figure out why He would even care where I am going to spend eternity

I can't understand how He was able to save me from my sins when I simply asked Him to

But, my questions do not stop me from believing!

What I don't understand does not prevent me from acting on what I do understand

Here is what I know and believe to be the absolutely true

-- Jesus Christ is God in the flesh

**John 1:1, 14 *– “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth”***

-- Jesus Christ was born of a virgin

**Isaiah 7:14 *– “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel”***

-- Jesus Christ lived a sinless life

**II Corinthians 5:21 *– “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”***

**Hebrews 7:26 *– “For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;”***

**I Peter 2:22 *– “Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:”***

**I John 3:5 *– “And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin”***

-- Jesus Christ died for my sins on a cross

**I Peter 2:24 *– “Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed”***

**Isaiah 53:4-6 *– “Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted” “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed” “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all”***

**John 1:29 *– “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”***

-- Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the 3rd day

**Matthew 28:1-6 …**

-- Jesus Christ ascended back to Heaven and sat down at the right hand of God the Father

**Hebrews 1:3 *– “Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the Word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”***

**Hebrews 10:12 *– “But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;”***

-- Jesus Christ is coming back to receive His people

**I Thess. 4:13-18 …**

-- Jesus Christ is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords

**Revelation 19:16 *– “And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS”***

-- Jesus Christ is the only Door to Salvation

He is the only Way into Life Eternal

He is the only Truth

Apart from Him, there is no hope, no salvation and no Heaven,

**John 14:6 *– “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me”***

I hope that’s what you believe as well?

If it isn't, please do not allow the claims of the Bible cause you to stumble

Believe the message just as it is given and receive Jesus

Do not allow that which you do not understand to cause you to stumble and send you to Hell!

They Rejected …

**HIS “PREACHING”**

**HIS “PERSON”**

**III. HIS “POWER” – vs. 4-6**

Because the People Rejected His Preaching and His Person

They were Deprived of His Power

**A. They were Deprived of His Presence**

His response to their unbelief is to quote a common proverb

**v. 4 *– “But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house”***

In summary, this proverb simply means “*familiarity breeds contempt*”

The people of Nazareth, like people everywhere, took for granted what they had and wanted what they didn't have

They looked at Jesus and saw one of their own

They treated Him as a common thing

Pastors have this same problem in their churches

The people in the church know you

They have watched you grow in the Lord with them

They have seen the success and they have watched the failures

They cannot get past what they know about you to hear what you are preaching

The hardest place a Pastor has to preach is in his own church!

They find less acceptance there than anywhere else

**II Corinthians 12:15 *– “And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved”***

**B. They were Deprived of His Power (Miracles)**

**v. 5** tells us that because of their unbelief, Jesus was unable to perform many miracles there

Only a few sick folks were healed

Let me make one thing straight right here;

Their unbelief did not hinder His power

Jesus was and is absolutely sovereign

He could have done anything there that He wanted to do

He possessed the power, but He refused to demonstrate His power in the face of blatant unbelief

The hands of Jesus were not tied

A few people came to Him in faith and those people received His help

The rest rejected Him and were rejected by Him

There is a word here for the health and wealth crowd

There is a word here for those who promote the cult of prosperity

People who have embraced the prosperity cult doctrine believe that God only responds to our faith

In other words, if you have enough faith, you will be healed

If you have enough faith you will have plenty of money

If you have the faith you can enjoy endless health, wealth and blessing

This way of thinking holds God captive to the will of man!

I would remind you that we serve a sovereign God!

He can do what He pleases, when He pleases and to whom He pleases

Our faith, or the lack thereof, does not pose a problem for Him

In this case, Jesus refused to **“*cast His pearls before the swine*”**

They refused the message, thus they forfeited the miracles

God's best blessings are not the works of healing, multiplying your loaves and fishes, or meeting your needs

The greatest work of God is *saving*, *sealing* and *securing* our souls!

If you are saved, you have experienced the greatest of our Lord's works

**C.** **They were Deprived of His ‘Participation’**

**1.** Left to themselves

When Jesus saw the depth of their rejection

**v. 6** says He **“*marveled at their unbelief*”**

The word **“*marveled*”** means *to stand in wonder and amazement*

Jesus is said to have ***“marveled”*** only twice

Both times His amazement was over faith

He marveled at the great faith of the centurion in **Luke 7**

Here, Jesus marveled at the lack of faith among His own people

Jesus was amazed that these people had Heard …

… the Truth, Seen the Truth and still turned a deaf ear and a blind eye to that Truth

As a result, He left Nazareth, and there is no record that He ever returned

Their rejection of Jesus was total and He left them to their choice!

**2.** That is what the Lord does!

He sends out a call for people to believe the Gospel and be saved,

**John 1:9 *– “That (He) was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world”***

When people reject the truth of the Gospel and the message of salvation through Jesus, there is no more hope for them

He might call them again and He might not

Regardless, there will come a point where the Lord will call them no more and they are abandoned to their choice

**Romans 1:28 –** ***“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;”***

There is a word here for the church

Jesus shows up when we meet …

**Matthew 18:20 *– “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them”***

He desires to teach us truth and He wants to help us grow

If we come to the house of the Lord expecting something from God, we will be amazed at what He can do

However, if we come with an “*I've seen it all and heard it all before*” attitude, we can expect nothing from the Lord

We come to the church house and expect the preacher to preach

The fact is, a great worship service demands the participation of both preacher and congregation

**Quote:** William Barclay put it this way: “*There can be no preaching in the wrong atmosphere. The congregation is responsible for at least half of every sermon. In an atmosphere of expectancy, the least effort will catch fire. In an atmosphere of coldness or indifference, the most spirit-filled of sermons will fall flat.*”

If we don't want Him here, Jesus will do what He did in Nazareth

He will leave and go elsewhere with His message and His miracles

**v. 6 b - . *“And He went round about the villages, teaching”***

We can have what we want at this house of worship

We can have glory, power, the manifest presence of God and we can have worship

Or we can have cold, dead orthodoxy

We cannot have both!

**Ill.** Once a young preacher was away preaching at a certain church. When he returned the next Lord's Day, his pastor, asked “*Where were you last Sunday evening?*” He replied, “*I was over at a certain church preaching.*” “*How was it?*” asked the pastor. “*Cold! I found it very cold*”, said the young preacher. “*Cold!*” cried the pastor, “*I'd say that place is cold. I preached there two years ago and I still haven't got the chill out of my bones!*”

I pray such a statement will never be made about this church!

I pray that we will embrace the Saviour and all He wants to do in us and for us

I pray that we will be careful to not push Him away

I pray that we will accept His Word, His Presence and His Power and make Him welcome in this place of worship

Just as He did in Nazareth, He won't force Himself on us here

We can have His blessings, or we can turn Him away

If we embrace Him, we will experience more of His power and blessings than we could ever imagine

If we don't want Him here, He will go elsewhere!

If we turn Him away, He will bless another church

I want Him to bless them and us too

There is plenty to go around

What happens to us is up to us!

Let’s not reject His Power!

**CONCLUSION**

I’m afraid that Baptists have become a lot like the people of Nazareth

We are so familiar with the things of God, the message of the Bible, the crucifixion of Jesus, the burial and the resurrection that we are no longer moved by them

We are reminded of what Jesus did for us and we say “*So what?*”

We talk about the cross and no one cares anymore

Shame on us!

We have allowed our hearts to grow cold and calloused toward the things of God

Today would be a good day to get before the Lord

And ask Him to warm your cold heart one more time

Others here have never been saved

You have never embraced the death of Christ as your death

You have never confessed your sins and asked Him into your life

You need to come to Jesus today

You need to be saved

Has the Lord spoken to your heart?

If He has, let me ask you to do something very unusual

What I am about to ask is so unusual that you might think I have gone crazy when I tell you what I am thinking

If the Lord has touched your heart on any level, why don't you leave your seat, bow at this altar and let Him do in your life what He wants to do

I know it sounds crazy, but that is what I want you to do