

July 19, 2020



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

◆  
**Lesson Leaders:**  
James Haymon

**Class Leaders:**  
**Inreach:** Pat Hester  
**Deacon:** C M Hester

## The Wisdom of Jesus Mark 6:1-6

### Lesson Background and Introduction

The text leaves us to ask: Do we accept Jesus as He is? Or do we think He ought to be someone else? As we weigh the great questions of faith and unbelief, perhaps the most astonishing idea is that God did His saving work in one from a town as ordinary as Nazareth. We expect God's work to be grand. Yet in Jesus it was humble. Far from yearning to be humble, we often long to be grand. But wanting to be extraordinary can be especially problematic for Christians. This is how God's wisdom challenges us to our core. The good news of Jesus teaches us that God's goodness is usually manifested in the lives of ordinary believers and in the fellowship of ordinary churches. The gracious goodness of God surrounds us constantly. If we expect to experience it only in grandiose ways, we will overlook His "ordinary" work in our lives. Prosperity, victory, status, security—these do not happen in a village like Nazareth visited by a carpenter who used to live there. Yet in Jesus' humility, God's wisdom was fully expressed. God's wisdom is similarly expressed today. It is expressed in an ordinary church witnessing to the gospel in a community, in a circle of friends who study Scripture and pray together, in the often unnoticed acts of service rendered to others in the name of Jesus, in sacrificial gifts that provide sustenance of body and spirit for those in need. Often those who do not know the true God hold such matters in contempt. They cannot believe that people of ordinary intelligence, of limited means, and having little of what the world counts as power can be doing what God desires. Their outlook tragically reflects that of the people in Nazareth who did not believe Jesus. But the door is not yet closed on such people of today. No place, no group, no person is ever beyond the possibility of repentance. And God always welcomes the repentant. God still embodies His wisdom in people who appear utterly ordinary, defying even the expectations of the faithful. When we feel stuck in our own ordinariness and lowliness, we can take heart that God continues to do the work of His kingdom in people like us.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**Unbelief** - Jesus left Capernaum and traveled with His 12 disciples to His hometown, Nazareth. On Saturday at the synagogue, He announced He was the Messiah. It did not go well. The residents of Nazareth had watched Jesus develop from a child into manhood in the house of His parents, Joseph the carpenter, and Mary. Now He was popular and influential, a worker of miracles. How did this happen?

**Insults** - When they heard His words, they marveled at a depth of His insight. He explained the Scriptures with such skill. However, their comments were filled with doubt and insults. In Jewish culture, the son was identified by his father's name. The town's people referred to Jesus as Mary's son, a putdown. They also mentioned His siblings. Why was He acting so differently from His brothers and sisters? Those who professed to know Him growing up in their city entirely dismissed His divinity—they were "offended at him," meaning the Nazarenes stumbled over Him, seeing Him as a scandal to their town. He did a few miracles there; some sick individuals in the town darkened His door requesting healing, but the majority wanted Him out of town. While crowds in other places nocked to Him, esteeming Him as one sent from God, He was not esteemed in Nazareth. Astonished at the unbelief He found, He nonetheless kept moving forward, advancing God's kingdom. He continued His teaching circuit in the other areas of Galilee.

**Suffering Rejection** - Walking God's path of wisdom and doing His will is not easy. At times, loved ones and close friends will be making light of or ignore our faith and Christian service. We can listen politely, but we must let the discouraging conversations go in one ear and out the other. Close friends and relatives may keep reminding you of your past or pointing out your limitations. We can learn from Jesus' example—keep pushing ahead, following the wise way with the guidance of God.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
True wisdom begins and ends with God

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**  
No wisdom gained through arduous quest  
Can set a sinner free, But God in wisdom sent His Son  
To die for you and me. —D. De Haan

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God*  
(1 Cor 1:18 NKJV)  
*(from "Our Daily Bread", Oct 31, 2001)*

**Series: Many Faces of Wisdom**

**UNIT: Wisdom in the Gospels**

### NEXT WEEK

**Wisdom to Follow**  
(John 14:1-14)

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Rejection of Jesus' Wisdom (Mark 6:1-2)**

#### *Rejecting because of ignorance*

- Ignorance because of hardening of the heart (Eph 4:18)
- Sometimes God shows mercy because of ignorance (1 Tim 1:13)
- Doing good will sometimes silence the ignorant (1 Peter 2:15)
- Ignorant people distort things and words about God (2 Peter 3:16)

#### *Rejecting the source*

- By trying to say Jesus' source was Satan (Matt 12:24)
- The Scriptures must not be rejected because they ALL come from God (2 Tim 3:16)
- With the tongue man can always dispute the source (James 3:9)

#### *Rejecting Jesus' abilities*

- The issue is not Jesus' ability, but man's belief (Mark 9:21-23)
- Many will not believe in Jesus' ability unless miracles are done (John 4:48)
- To accept Jesus' ability, one must first believe in Him as God's Son (Heb 11:6)
- To accept Jesus' ability, one must be fully persuaded that Jesus has the power (Rom 4:19-21)

### **Rejection of Jesus' Heritage and Honor (Mark 6:3-4)**

#### *Role of heritage*

- In Christ all are of one family (Gal 3:26-29)
- Through the Holy Spirit, Christians are children of God (Rom 8:15-17)
- Being a child of a father is all about obedience (John 8:39-42)
- It's not being a natural child that matter, it's being the child of promise (Rom 9:7-8)

#### *Familiarity breeds contempt*

- Family can betray one another (Jer 12:6)
- Friends cannot always be trusted (Jer 9:4)
- People may listen and even say they believe and trust, but their lives and actions betray them (Ezek 33:30-32)
- It has been prophesied that familiarity will become a problem (Matt 10:21)
- Jesus' own brothers did not believe in Him (John 7:5)

### **Rejection of Jesus' Healing (Mark 6:5-6)**

#### *God always has His remnant*

- God preserves His remnant (Gen 45:7)
- God saves His remnant (Rom 9:27)
- There is a remnant chosen by grace (Rom 11:5)
- The remnant will seek God (Acts 15:17)

#### *How unbelief affects receptivity*

- Gentiles were saved because the Jews were not receptive to Jesus (Rom 11:19-20)
- Most of the older Israelites did not enter the promise land because of unbelief (Heb 3:17-19)
- Those who do not believe are condemned (John 3:18)
- If people do not believe in the Bible, how can they believe in Jesus (John 5:46-47)
- Unbelief is representative of not being one of Jesus' sheep (John 10:24-26)