

- He draws such vast crowds that there is a danger of His being trampled and crushed by the crowds. – Mark 3:9.
- All the intellectual and learned men in Israel believe that He is crazy too – Mark 3:22.

The picture is that Christ and His disciples were in a very crowded house and were kept so busy they couldn't take a break. And his family shows up to make a rescue. The text goes on to show Christ telling of the unpardonable sin.

Growing up with Jesus:

- What must it have been like to have Jesus for a brother?
- What must it have been like to be His parents?
- Did He ever act God-like?
- Did He ever teach Bible lessons?

Luke 4:16, 28-30: More difficulty, but _____ is not there:

In John 7 and in Mark 3, we saw His brothers did not believe in Him and they thought He was insane. In Mark 6, people who knew Him since He was a kid took offense at Him. In Luke 4 His hometown folks took Him to a cliff to stone Him. Family and neighbors all....

What did Jesus NOT do? What did He DO?

The relationship that matters is the one you have with Jesus Christ as a believer in Him.

Series: Biblical Gen. Ed.

Title: Family Relationships

Topic: What did Jesus do?

Background:

Jesus has just taught that He was the Bread of Life. Many of His disciples (followers) said His teaching was difficult to understand.

John 6: 61-71:

Between chapters 6 and 7, John has a gap of perhaps 6 months in his account. We need to look at the other gospel writers to discover what went on. We learn that for the most part Christ disappeared from the public areas. Instead of remaining in the populace centers, during that period of time, He goes off to Tyre and Sidon, which is north and west over towards the Mediterranean. Then He goes to the east side of the Sea of Galilee, south down into the area of Decapolis, which was ten cities.

There's another great event that occurred during those six months, and that's the transfiguration where He revealed His glory, and also during those same months, He told His disciples for the very first time that He was going to die and rise from the dead. During those six months, primarily His focus was on the 12. So this would have been the most intense period of training the 12. The false disciples are gone. They left in chapter 6 verse 66. The true stayed.

Lesson:

John 7:1-5: Relative _____:

Possible interpretations of His brothers comments:

- _____ "You want to be famous. Go to Jerusalem, do some miracles, and you'll hit the big time!"
- _____ Jesus, at first popular, was now losing disciples. If He went up to Jerusalem for this big feast, perhaps He could gain back some of them and save the family name.
- _____ "If you want Your Messianic claims to be made known, You need to go prove Yourself to the religious authorities in the capital city."

The heartbreak of this passage is *even his own brothers did not believe in him.*

Mark 6:1-6: Difficulty with _____ (people who knew Christ):

In verse 2, *amazed* or *astounded* means: "to be seized with panic; to be struck with terror; to be stricken with startling and sudden alarm."

In verse 6, when Jesus saw the depth of their rejection, He *marveled at their unbelief*. This *amazed* 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 _____ faith of a centurion in Luke 7:1-10. Here, Jesus marveled at the _____ of faith among His own people. In many places the Bible tells us the people were amazed at Him. They were astonished at Him. But only those two times was He amazed at them.

Verse 3 has some meaning that we need to dig deeper to discover.

1. First, they call him *the carpenter*.
The word *carpenter* was actually much broader than just one who works with wood. It had the idea of "a builder." Jesus may have worked with stone as much as with wood, because stone was a much more common building material in that time and place.

- a. It is wonderful to think that our Lord - of all the professions He could have been - chose to be a *carpenter*. God is a builder, and He knows how to build in our lives - and He knows how to finish the job.
- b. A few things Jesus learned as a carpenter:
 - He learned that there is a lot of potential in a log.
 - He learned it takes work and time to make something useable.
 - He learned that the finest things are made from the hardest 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. Next, they call Him *Mary's son*. 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 his birth was illegitimate. The people were calling the birth of Jesus into question.

3. Lastly, we are told *they took offense at Him*. 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.

While this account is not specifically about His own family, it is about the people He grew up with. 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.

He left Nazareth and there is no record that He ever returned there...

Mark 3:20-21, 31-35: More relative difficulty:

Jesus has just returned from an all-night prayer meeting in the mountains, Luke 6:12, and from choosing the twelve men who would serve as His disciples, v. 13-18. He and His men have returned to town and have entered into a house, v. 19. They are hoping to get some much needed rest. Their plans are shattered by a multitude of people who come to Jesus and His men for help. They are so busy ministering to the crowds that they do not even have time to eat a meal.

When His family hears about what He is doing, their first thought is that Jesus has gone crazy. The phrase, "He is beside Himself" means exactly that! Why would they think Jesus was crazy? Look at the evidence:

- He claims to be God. – Mark 2:5
- He calls men to follow Him around the country to preach the Word. – Mark 3:13-18
- He refuses to rest and take care of Himself. – Mark 3:20
- He refuses to work as a carpenter, choosing rather to wander around the country and preach.
- He doesn't work for a living, but trusts God to supply His needs.