

Date: June 21, 2026
Series: The Gospel According to Mark
Title: “Hero or Rescuer”
Text: Mark 6:1-13



Part I. The Danger of Shallow Familiarity (Mark 6:1-6)

- A. **The Threat of Hardness:** Shallow familiarity with Jesus threatens to breed a **deadly hardness** of heart. (*John 1:11*)
- B. **A Limitation of Design, Not Ability:** The limitation of Jesus in Nazareth was not a lack of power, but a matter of **theological design**. (*Matthew 12:39*)
- C. **The Victim of Rejection:** Jesus was not **harmed** by the rejection of Nazareth—the people of Nazareth were. (*Hebrews 3:12*)
- D. **The Irony of Proximity:** The people of Nazareth missed the Messiah not because they were too far away, but because they were too close to Him without **truly seeing** Him.

Part II. The Unleashing of Dependent Mission (Mark 6:7-13)

- A. **Multiplied Impact:** Dependent mission **multiplies** the Gospel impact and unleashes the sovereign power of God.
- B. **The Heart of the Mission:** Radical **dependence**—being empty of self and earthly securities—sits at the absolute heart of the Gospel mission. (2 *Corinthians 12:9*)
- C. **The Weight of Rejection:** Rejecting the message of Jesus leaves people to face **eternal**, catastrophic consequences.
- D. **The Outcome of Obedience:** When disciples work in the power of God, the power of God accomplishes the work of God.

Conclusion: The Lord calls us to be committed **rescuers**, not hometown heroes.

Discussion & Application Questions

1. In what practical ways can we guard ourselves against becoming "spiritually desensitized" or cynical after years of being in the church?
2. How does knowing that Jesus experienced rejection provide comfort or encourage you when you face quiet apathy or resistance from family, friends, or coworkers?
3. What does it mean that Jesus' limitations in Nazareth were of a theological design, not limitations on his ability? Why does this matter?
4. What "earthly security blankets" are you tempted to rely on instead of relying entirely on the Holy Spirit for your security and spiritual success?
5. *We are called to be dependent rescuers, not hometown heroes.* What is the danger of acting like a "hometown hero" in our ministries or families, and what does it look like to be a "dependent rescuer"?
6. Jesus told the disciples to shake the dust off their feet when rejected, showing that they weren't responsible for the outcome, only the obedience. How does this truth bring you freedom and peace when sharing the Gospel with people who refuse to listen?
7. What is one specific, practical step you can take this week to move from passive observer to an active, dependent part of God's rescue mission?