

Bible reading: [Mark 6:1-6](#)

Mark's gospel is very fast moving. We go from one event to the next and from one miracle to the next.

Jesus had power over nature, over sickness, over evil and over death which all points to Jesus being God.

In today's passage Jesus went to his hometown of Nazareth and on the Sabbath, he taught in the Synagogue. This wasn't unusual. The custom at the time allowed visiting preachers to teach at the invitation of the Synagogue ruler.

This wasn't the first time Jesus had taught in a synagogue. Back in chapter one we find Jesus teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum where he also drives out an evil spirit and we are told in verse 27 that, ***'The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.'***

And now Jesus is back in his hometown of Nazareth and teaching in the synagogue. Once again some people were amazed and impressed by his wisdom and some of the miracles they had heard about.

But not everyone was so positive.

Isn't he the carpenter's son, they said? In other words, what's so special about him? He's no different from us – he's just a common labourer.

Isn't this Mary's son? You would normally identify someone in relation to their father. By saying isn't this Mary's son they are saying isn't he illegitimate, we don't know who his father is.

In this climate of unbelief, Jesus chose not to do many miracles there. He was amazed at their lack of faith. I think Jesus would have felt sad and disappointed about it.

They just couldn't see Jesus for who he really was.

Bible reading: [Mark 6:7 – 13](#)

So, Jesus moved on and he began teaching from village to village. And then he sent out his 12 disciples two by two so they would be a credible witness to each other as well as for mutual support.

He gave them authority over evil spirits, and he told them to take nothing for the journey except a walking stick. They were to take no bread and no bag and no money.

They could wear sandals, but they were not to take an extra tunic.

Apparently, when people went to worship at the temple they didn't take bread, a bag or money so they could be focussed on their worship and not get distracted by any other business or activity while they were there.

Jesus wants his disciples to be focussed on their mission and not to have any distractions.

It also meant they would be dependant on others for hospitality.

An extra tunic would have been used at night-time when it was colder, but they were to trust that God would provide lodging for them each night.

Jesus told his disciples that if anyone doesn't listen to them or welcome them, they were to leave that place and shake the dust of their feet. Shaking the dust of your feet was something the Pharisees did when they left a Gentile area because they would have considered it unclean. It was a way of saying I want nothing to do with this place.

For the disciples, it represented a solemn warning to those who rejected Jesus' message. After all, the kingdom of God is here and now is the time to turn to him.

It's a reminder to us of our responsibility to share the good news of Jesus and it is their responsibility how they respond to it.