

TALKING JESUS: “HIS METHOD”

THESIS: Let’s Talk Jesus

TEXT: Mark 6:1-13

Topic: (Quick survey: Church—influenced to come by family, friends, neighbors, work, “shops or strangers”, self)

In **Mark 6:1-13** let’s discover where we should talk about Jesus and His gospel.

Mark 6:1-2a “*Jesus left there and went to His hometown, accompanied by His disciples. ²When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were amazed.*”

Historical: Synagogues arose among Israelites during Assyrian captivity (740-720 BC). Synagogues became the place for instruction and religious observance wherever Hebrew communities were located. Jesus took advantage of the custom that allowed visiting teachers to participate in the worship service by invitation of the synagogue leaders. During the years of 1905 to 1926 an ancient Capernaum synagogue was excavated and partially restored.

Luke 4:16 “Jesus went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. And He stood up to read.”

Historical: Nazareth was an agricultural village in the region of Galilee about 20 miles from Capernaum (the headquarters town for the public ministry of Jesus) and about 55 miles north of Jerusalem. In NT times Nazareth had a population of about 500 of which the inhabitants were noted for their crude and violent ways. Today it’s the capital and largest city of the Northern district of Israel with a population of about 76,000. It’s known as “the Arab capital of Israel.” The inhabitants are mostly Arab citizens of Israel, of whom are 69% Muslim and 30% Christian.

Regarding the observance of Sabbath today:

***Romans 14:5-6, 22** “One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God...So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves.”

***Colossians 2:16-17** “Do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.”

Illustration: Owner Dan Cathy of Chick-Fil-A closes his restaurants on Sundays. The annual revenue of Chick-Fil-A is over \$2 billion dollars.

Even though we no longer have to observe Sabbath—Scripture teaches us to be committed to meeting with church:

- **Acts 2:42** “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”
- **Ephesians 2:10; 4:11-12, 16** “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...It was (Christ) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...From Him, the whole body...grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its works.”
- **Hebrews 10:25** “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Insight from Billy Graham: “Very seldom do parents have trouble with children when the Bible is read regularly in the home, grace is said at the table, family prayers take place daily, and go to church together every Sunday. Most trouble with teenagers comes from children reared in homes where prayer is neglected, the Bible is never opened and church attendance is spasmodic. Christ gives the moral stability, understanding, wisdom and patience needed to rear children. There is only one solution to combating the problems afflicting young people, and that answer is Christ.”

Mark 6:2b-6a “*‘Where did this man get these things?’ they asked. ‘What’s this wisdom that has been given Him, that He even does miracles! ³Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?’ And they took offense at Him. Jesus said to them, ‘Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor.’ ⁵He could not do any miracles there, except lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶He was amazed at their lack of faith.*”

Took offense (Greek: *skandalizo*) means to cause to stumble or fall away.

Matthew 24:9-10 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of Me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other...”

Luke 10:16 “He who listens to you (the apostles) listens to Me; he who rejects you (the apostles) rejects Me; but he who rejects Me rejects Him (God the Heavenly Father) who sent Me.”

Illustration: Besides atheistic attacks on the Church such as by Communism and dictatorships, historically, much of the persecution against Christianity has been at the hands of religious groups (i.e. Jewish leaders in the days of the NT and Islam for the most part since that time—these profess belief in God).

Mark 6:6b-13 “Jesus went around teaching from village to village. ⁷Calling the Twelve to Him, He sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. ⁸These were His instructions: ‘Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. ⁹Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. ¹⁰Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. ¹¹And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them. ¹²They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.”

Welcome (Greek: *dechomai*) means to accept or receive by deliberate and ready reception.

1 Peter 4:7-9 “The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another...”

Insight from Alexander Strauch: “Unless we open our homes to one another, the reality of the church as God’s household is only another theory. So when we speak of brotherly love, we must also speak of hospitality. Inviting unbelievers into your home is a witness in itself. Showing them concern and love by opening your home is a powerful magnet in bringing men and women to Christ. Home Bible discussions are effective because the atmosphere is informal, comfortable, and personal. It is usually a non-threatening smaller environment that is more conducive to questions from participants” (Booklet: *Using Your Home For Christ*).

Acts 18:26 “(Apollos) began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.”

Illustration: In his book, *Evangelism as a Lifestyle*, Jim Petersen tells of a home Bible study he conducted with a Marxist named Mario. This man eventually became a Christian after a four-year study. Mario later told him: “Remember that first time I stopped by your house? We were on our way some place together and I had a bowl of soup with you and your family. I sat there observing you, your wife, your children, and how you related to each other. I asked myself: ‘When will I have a relationship like this with my fiancée?’ When I realized the answer was ‘never,’ I concluded I had to become a Christian for the sake of my own survival.”

Insight from Alexander Strauch: “You can serve and care for people through your home. You can invite people into your home for prayer. You can encourage the discouraged. You can reach out to new people. Poor people would enjoy your hospitality. You can help church members get to know other church members better. You can have Bible school teachers, elders, deacons, or other ministry leaders for a meal or dessert. Try inviting people who don’t understand you or dislike you into your home.”

Mark 9:37b “Whoever welcomes Me does not welcome Me but the One who sent Me.”

CLOSE: Let’s welcome people in the name of God and talk Jesus. It’s His method.