

Mark 6:1-6
Jesus Can Fill Us with Cascades of Grace
3/27/22

ILL: **D. L. Moody**, the famous evangelist of the **1800s** said this: “**If** I regard iniquity in my heart and am not willing to give it up, I need not pray, for there is no room in my life to receive the **Grace** I seek. You may take a bottle and cork it up tight and put it under **Niagara**, and yet not a drop of that mighty volume of water will ever get into the container. T/f, **if** any **unconfessed** sin remains in my life, and I am not willing to abandon it, I have **blocked** the channel b/t me and Godⁱ.”

RN: Despite God’s willingness to flood us w/ His Grace (**God’s favor and power**), can we block Him? Can’t selfishness, Disbelief, and rebellion **damn up** the **Niagara** of His supply? Can even one drop of Grace penetrate a **plugged** heart?

AN: God is ready, willing, and able to flood any open-heart w/ His Grace, but none of it will moisten any part of a Disbelieving man’s heart unless he repents and Trusts Jesus.

BI: Disbelief limits Jesus’ ability to benefit us, so we must respond to God’s Grace or lose His Favor and Power. **Please turn in your Bibles to Mk 6:1-6.**

- I. Today, we’ll see how Jesus **offends** His Hometown.
- II. And, we’ll see why Jesus quotes an **old saying**.
- III. Finally, we’ll see how Jesus’ **Hometown astonishes** Him.

Jesus can fill us w/ cascades of Grace. [PRAY]

(TRN) In (1-3) Jesus **offends** His Hometown.

Mark 6:1–3 (NASB95) ¹ *Jesus went out from there and came into His Hometown; and His disciples followed Him.* ² *When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things, and what is [this] wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands?”* ³ *“Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?” And they took offense at Him.*

(1) Jesus leaves **Capernaum** and goes **25** miles **SW** to **Nazareth**, s/t He can visit His Mom, His ½ brothers, and His ½ sisters. And, His Followers tag along to keep Him company.

A. And, it's vital to see that Jesus left as Mary's **son** and the 1/2 **brother** of His siblings. But now, He's returning as a famous, miracle-working rabbi w/ His many enthusiastic Followers.

1. And, please note that Jesus' God-ordained success is going to be a major factor in what's about to happen in His **Hometown**.

(2) A few days after Jesus arrives, the religious community gathers to celebrate the **Sabbath**. And, as an observant Jew, Jesus goes to synagogue.

A. Now, by custom, the synagogue ruler asks any man in the congregation to go to the pulpit and speak if he so chooses. So, Jesus steps up.

1. Jesus knows that despite the fact He's come back for a rest, God has given Him a solid gold opportunity to address His family and His Hometown.

2. All eyes are on Jesus to see what He'll do, b/c His earth-shaking reputation has beaten Him back home. And, then Jesus speaks—

B. Now, when Jesus starts showing how the Law and the Prophets point to Him, His Hometown Crowd is thunderstruck, flabbergasted, and bowled over.

C. And, some of the Crowd gets real ugly. So, they try to cut Jesus back down to size as they shout, **"Hey, where did this guy get his material?"**

1. And, then, they yell at Jesus, **"Hey, who opened your eyes to see the Scriptures that way? And, who died and made you Galilee's one-and-only miracle man?"**

2. **"Get off your high horse, Jesus! You're just a grunt like the rest of us. We know your Mom was in a family way w/ you b/f she officially married your Step-dad."**

3. In Jewish culture, nobody calls you your **"mother's son"** unless there's some embarrassing fact about your birth. Then, the Crowd goes on—

4. **"Your brothers James, Joses, Judas, and Simon are just a bunch of rednecks like us. And, your sisters are just a bunch of little ol' country girls. So, get real!"**

D. And, Mark says, **"They were scandalized."** The Greek verb in this context means **"to lose Faith; to fall into sin."**

1. IOW, the Crowd's negative, hateful, scornful reaction to Jesus destroys their Faith in God and leads them into the darkest, most dangerous regions of sin.

E. As such, Jesus' Hometown tells Him, **"We want to keep you down, so don't give us any problem about it! We won't believe God sent you!"**

1. IOW, they're saying, **"Jesus, you may know the Bible like the back of your hand, and you may even be right about who you say the Bible says you are—but we don't want you to be anyone more than whom we want you to be. Got it?"**

2. Ironically, this Crowd has the gall to look the extreme fulfillment of Biblical prophecy in the face and tell Him that they don't want Him.

F. And, they don't want Him, b/c they really don't want God either. If they really wanted God, they'd want the Person Who perfectly represents Him and His Truth.

1. IOW, the Crowd doesn't love the blazing **Light of Jesus' life**, b/c they love the run-of-the-mill, predictable, and devil-may-care darkness of their own lives more.

2. To Trust in Jesus means to Trust in a personal God Who demands fresh, honest, staunch Faith. And for some, that's too much to pay even for Eternal Life.

G. ILL: *CONTEXT: A wealthy young man has just asked Jesus in a patronizing way how he can earn eternal life. Luke 18:22-25 (NASB95) [Jesus said to him], "One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."²³ But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.²⁴ And Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!²⁵ "For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."*

H. APPL: Many times, God gives people the opportunity to follow Him, but many times these opportunities cost them dearly in staunch Faith b/f they can reap their rewards.

God wants fresh, honest, staunch Faith, s/t Jesus can fill us w/ cascades of Grace.

(TRN) In (4), Jesus quotes an **old saying**.

Mark 6:4 (NASB95) ⁴ Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his Hometown and among his [own] relatives and in his [own] household."

(4) In response to the Crowd's ugliness, Jesus quotes an **old saying**: **"Everybody respects a prophet except his Hometown, his friends, and even his own family."**

A. Jesus is just like many of the **OT** prophets, who went to Israel w/ God's relevant, gracious, and convicting Word. Often, their families and friends mocked them, and sometimes these major people even gave them the cold shoulder. **Why?**

B. Sometimes, when God moves you out of the expectations that your family and friends have set up for you, they get very, very threatened.

1. And, if you persist in going God's way, they may even abandon you, especially if God calls you to a life that convicts them of their own **Selfishness and Disbelief.**

C. Bearing this in mind, here are **3** main reasons for their hostility: **1)** There's **envy**. Some people hate it when you get some Grace (God's favor and power) that they don't get.

1.1 So, their self-pity buries them in bitterness, so they want to take your Grace away from you, or at least spoil it for you in some nasty way.

2) There's **guilt**. When God grants you Grace, some people hate it, b/c your success reminds them of the God-opportunities that they threw away.

2.1 So, if they can't move up, they'll make real sure that you can't either. B/c, if everybody's stuck at the same level of failure, then **success** becomes **abnormal**.

3) There's **pride**. Some people feel smaller when God grants you Grace. So, **if** they can't match you or go you one better, **then** they try to cut you down and make sure everybody laughs at what God is doing through you.

D. And, that's what's happening here. The hand of God rests mightily on Jesus. So, Jesus' intense presence draws out the Crowd's envy, guilt, and pride the way a hot compress draws out puss from an infected boil.

E. But, Jesus is secure in His God and in His God's plan for His life. So, Jesus isn't going to make the Crowd's envy, guilt, and pride His problem.

1. No, He's not going to let them provoke Him into bitterness, distraction, and one-upmanship. Instead, Jesus is going to reap holiness from thankfulness, single-mindedness, and submissiveness to God.

2. IOW, Jesus isn't going to let the Crowds' vices tear Him down; He's going to let God's virtue build Him up.

F. ILL: *CONTEXT: Jesus calls Zacchaeus, an infamous tax collector who has climbed a tree to see Him, to repentance, Faith and Salvation. Luke 19:5-9 (NASB95) ⁵ Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house."⁶ And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. ⁷ When [the Crowd] saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."⁸ Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much."⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham."*

G. APPL: In time, God always brings out the Truth. And, when He does, He reveals whether we're choosing to let the World's vices tear us down, or whether we're choosing to let His virtues build us up.

God's **virtues** must build us up, s/t Jesus can fill us w/ cascades of Grace.

(TRN) In (5-6), Jesus' Hometown **astonishes** Him.

Mark 6:5-6 (NASB95) ⁵ And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And He wondered at their unbelief. And He was going around the villages teaching.

(5) As a result of His Hometown's hostility, Disbelief, and blindness Jesus can't do any miracles in **Nazareth**, except a few healings among a few **insightful** Believers.

A. It's not that Jesus lacks the **omnipotence** to do more miracles. It's that envy, guilt, and pride blaspheme God and, t/f, cheat the Envious, the Guilty, and the Proudful out of God's Grace.

B. So, when people who know God's Word reject God's Servants who effectively teach them God's Word, God refuses to reward their rebellion.

1. IOW, God judges us by the way that we respond to **Light** that He gives us. And, the more Light that He's gives us, the stricter His judgment of us becomes.

C. Listen to what Jesus says, **Luke 12:48 (NASB95) ⁴⁸ From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.**

1. IOW, we have an astonishing, astounding, and awe-inspiring duty to invest the Grace that God gives us into the lives of others for their benefit and God's glory.

2. **READ THAT** use God's Grace or lose God's Grace. IOW, the more we faithfully act as the conduits of God's Grace, the more God's Grace flows through us.

3. God wants to fill our open hearts w/ cascades of Grace (Eph 1:3). IOW, God wants us to all to be **Niagara Falls Christians**.

D. But, the opposite holds true, too. The less we faithfully function as the conduits of God's Grace, the less God's Grace flows through us.

1. And, sometimes, God turns off the faucet when a person's Disbelieving heart willfully turns into a clogged storm drain awash w/ **stagnant** envy, guilt, and pride.

(6) The Disbelief that's festered in His Hometown, His relatives, and even His own family **astonishes** Jesus.

A. IOW, Jesus' Hometown, relatives, and family leave Him thunderstruck, flabbergasted, and bowled over b/c they have every reason to be on **God's side**.

1. They have the **Law**. They have the **Prophets**. They have the **Covenants**. They have the **Promises**. But, most of all, they have—**Him**.

2. IOW, they **reject Jesus**, b/c in their hearts they **reject God**. So, here's an eternal Truth that we can extract from this scene: If a person loves God, then that person will love His Son, b/c God and His Son have the same **character**.

B. Now, there's only **1** other time in the **Gospels** when someone astonishes Jesus to this degree. But, in his case, he astonishes Jesus for a very different reason—A **Roman Centurion** Trusts Jesus **110%** to heal his servant (Mt 8:10; Lk 7:9).

C. And, this **Roman GI** leaves Jesus thunderstruck, flabbergasted, and bowled over, b/c he's a Pagan, he's an enemy, and he has no reason whatsoever to be on God's side.

1. But, this GI sees how Jesus operates and instinctively knows that Jesus is the real deal. So, he submissively asks Jesus to heal his servant, b/c he knows Jesus will.

D. Listen to what Jesus says about this GI: **Matthew 8:10 (NASB95)** ¹⁰ ***Now when Jesus heard [this], He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel."***

1. IOW, you can't really tell a spiritual book by its cover. And, bearing this in mind, the Nazareth Crowd stands for Israel's spiritual **blindness**, and this GI stands for every Believer's spiritual **insight**.

E. But, the Roman GI also stands for **2** other astonishing, astounding, and awe-inspiring Truths—[Jesus] **Matthew 8:11–12 (NASB95)** ¹¹ **"I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline [at the table] with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; ¹² but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."**

1. IOW, using God's Grace or losing God's Grace can determine your eternal destiny.

F. And, in a sense, Jesus' actions embody these **2** Truths. He heals the Centurion's servant, but He never returns to Nazareth.

1. Instead, He takes His message to others who will use God's Grace for God's glory, the benefit of others, and their own spiritual prosperity.

G. ILL: *CONTEXT: Jesus has healed a demoniac whom a multitude of demons had enslaved. And, this new Believer wants to serve in Jesus' ministry. **Luke 8:38–39 (NASB95)** ³⁸ **But the man from whom the demons had gone out was begging Him that he might accompany Him; but [Jesus] sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you."** So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.*

H. Application: Sometimes, God will drop a solid gold opportunity into our lap. And, when He does, He wants us to leave Him thunderstruck, flabbergasted, and bowled over by how much His Grace can fill us and enable us.

We must act on God's opportunities, s/t Jesus can fill us w/ cascades of His Grace.

ⁱ "Some Principles of Prayer," INFOsearch Pro ver 4.3P.

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