

FURTHER STUDY GUIDE

When Familiarity Breeds Contempt | Mark 6:1-6

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It is possible to be around Jesus, hear about Jesus, and even be impressed by Jesus—yet still fail to truly receive Him by faith. Familiarity with Christ is only good if it deepens reverence rather than dulls it.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Have you ever become so familiar with something valuable that you started to take it for granted? What was it?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Amazed but Offended (6:1-3)

Jesus returns to Nazareth and teaches in the synagogue. The people are amazed by His wisdom and mighty works, but instead of believing, they question Him and take offense at Him. They cannot get past what they think they already know about Him.

1. What stands out to you about the people's reaction to Jesus in these verses?

2. Why do you think they were amazed by Him but still offended by Him?

3. How can familiarity with Jesus keep someone from truly seeing Him?

4. In what ways do people today admire Jesus without actually submitting to Him?

The Danger of Familiarity (6:4)

Jesus says that a prophet is often dishonored in his own hometown. The people closest to Him were the least willing to honor Him. Their familiarity with Jesus had dulled their reverence for Him.

5. What does Jesus mean when He says a prophet is without honor in his hometown?

6. Why can familiarity sometimes lead to dishonor or irreverence?

7. How can repeated exposure to biblical truth become dangerous if we are not careful?

8. What are some ways Christians can begin to treat Jesus or the things of God too casually?

The Cost of Unbelief (6:5-6)

Because of their unbelief, Nazareth missed what they might have received from Jesus. Mark says Jesus marveled at their unbelief. Their problem was not lack of access to Jesus, but lack of faith in Jesus.

9. What does it mean that Jesus “could do no mighty work there”?

10. Why do you think Jesus marveled at their unbelief?

11. How can unbelief keep people from receiving what Christ offers?

12. What is the difference between being near Jesus and responding to Him in faith?

PERSONAL DEVOTION

The tragedy of Nazareth is that Jesus was right in front of them, and they still missed Him. That means the greatest danger is not always rejection from a distance—sometimes it is casual unbelief up close.

Have I become so familiar with Jesus that I no longer stand in awe of Him?

QUESTIONS | REFLECTIONS | OBSERVATIONS
