

The Gospel of Mark
Familiarity Breeds Contempt
Mark 6:1-6

Much of our emotional pain comes from rejection. Fear of rejection makes us tentative. It keeps us from asking for that job, or that promotion, or even that date. Fear of rejection may be the number one reason we refuse to engage in gospel conversations. It is one thing to be rejected in the marketplace. It is something completely different to be rejected in our families.

1. Familiarity caused them to question.
2. Familiarity caused them to be offended.
3. Familiarity caused them to not believe.

It is a shock to our system that the sovereign God would come to us from such a humble town, a humble family, a humble trade, and a humble nation. The shock of that truth was met with contempt among the people who grew up with Jesus, but the contempt that they demonstrated said little about Jesus' character. It said much more about theirs.

For further consideration:

Did any of your classmates surprise you at your class reunion because of the good things they had accomplished? How did you feel about it: happy, proud, skeptical? Why do you think the people in Jesus' hometown resented Him? How do you feel when someone close to you gives their lives to Jesus? Do you feel happy for them and give them the benefit of doubt or do you approach their conversion with a cautious skepticism that imposes a wait and see attitude? What does it say about your view of Jesus if you think there are people that He cannot or will not convert? What does it say about human nature that we can see what Jesus does and yet deny that He is who He says He is? Are there times when you display an amazing lack of trust in Jesus?