

PENTECOST 6 (2021)

Mark 6

Mark 6:1–13 [Jesus] went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. And he said to them, **“Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.”** **So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent.** And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

In the Name of Jesus.

All men insist on taking over the role best played by God. That is why no man is ever truly satisfied, whole, at peace. Despite the wisdom, the mighty works and the other “things” Jesus was doing, “the people took offence at Him.” In other words, ‘Wellll.... Little Jesus done grown up; but maybe is now a little too big for his britches! We

WANT—indeed!—desire the God of wonders! But NOT in some lad from the little town of Nazareth.’

Rejoice, my dear ones! Rejoice and repent and rejoice! For it is real violence we do: stepping into shoes way too big for us; the shoes of the Wonderful. And when Wonderful calls it quits and changes time into eternity: the horror. Forever left to pretend to be what we can never be.

Yet Jesus of Nazareth clearly had ‘things,’ ‘wisdom,’ ‘God-like wonders,’—but the problem was that they were all wrapped up in the littlest package. They saw Him, playing in the streets of Nazareth, learning to speak, asking for ‘basketti’ for lunch and calling the many legged hairy little creatures ‘callipitters.’ And after all THEIR growing pains—being corrected enough that now THEY were licensed to do the correcting...

They sneered. Psalm 1...2...3... speaks of ‘disdain,’ ‘contempt.’ Saint Mark called it ‘taking offense.’ Jesus, in turn, could do the truly human ‘thing’ of ‘being indignant.’ But turning everything upside down.

¹³ And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. ¹

My grandson, Samuel Paul, is now growing a shoe size a month, it seems. Where does that boy get his genes?

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mk 10:13–16). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

But there is STILL larger footwear! Like all the little ones, he giggles to put his tiny hooves in the big boats and skis the rest of us wear. ANOTHER memory the Nazarenes had! ‘This man, like his brothers and sisters, used to slip around and stumble in Mary and Joseph’s sandals! And HE thinks HE can BE any FINAL WORD to us about heaven? Calling US to repentance, when we still don’t think he can tie his own shoes!’

Don’t really want to use the language of gamblers. But ‘doubling down’ seems a perfect term. My crystal ball tells me that ‘doubling down’ happens when something is on the line—and what you’ve bet, you double, certain of your position.

Ah, my lovelies!

God knows how to show contempt as well; especially to those who disdain their neighbors, their parents, the governing authorities HE has set in place for our good. Plenty of wonders in the Old Testament about the Almighty showing what really is might and what is just Pharaoh and his little green army-men.

Moses sings that the Lord God divided the Sea ‘with the breath of His nostrils.’ A wonder. A metaphor for anger. But, also, I WONDER if God’s NOSE can do such things, what if He used His whole MOUTH?!

Heaven does not break a sweat when it comes to leaving us to our destructive ‘godhead’. Lord, have mercy. The call to repentance is no joke. When He calls you, you will answer for all you’ve done, as little man; as pretend God. And what will you answer?

Answer this: the doubling down of Jesus!

They took offense at little JJ from down the block. So what does He do? He hands over all His ‘things,’ ‘wonders,’ ‘wisdom,’ to Judas! To Simon Peter! To James and John—who are going to have visions of grandeur and godhead, ‘Let us be your right and left hands, Jesus, Son of God, in your glory!’

And it gets worse! Or, I say to you: it gets way better!

For the ‘things’ of Jesus, His ‘wonders’ and ‘wisdom’ have not only passed from Him to them, but from them to a man your poor pastor calls, ‘Your poor pastor.’ Not a game. I’m doing my best to teach you repentance and receiving the kingdom as a child and Heaven’s wonders and wisdom and all the things that MADE...GOD...SWEAT!

³² And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³ And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴ And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.” ³⁵ And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” ³⁷ And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour?” ³⁸ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹ And he came the

third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.” ²

You are familiar with the contempt of those who watched Him suffer. Killing a man, God’s role, because that Man insisted, doubled down: God has squeezed HIS big feet into your tiny-tot booties; and that’s the only place you will find Him now.

Your poor pastor has absolved you today. The offended man in you—Old Adam; the church-stalwart Nazarene—self-satisfied you---- Like your poor pastor’s worser self, we want more. NOT the little word from one poor soul to another that all is well; but wonders and wisdom and all sorts of things that will make the crowds gape and applaud and wish they were more, and DEMAND that others be more too. Never ends.

Let me make this short and sweet.

Repent. Meaning:
do...not...change...a...single...thing...about...you.

DOUBLE DOWN on what you are, who you are. See and learn that you daily and much keep trying to march proud in shoes that are WAY too big for you: ‘If I WAS God, this world would be a better place!’

Be sick of the you that thinks that way! But DO NOT CHANGE! This poor man is begging you.

² [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mk 14:32–42). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Dial it back, so that your playmates in this world can stand your presence. Now and then, you may even ease their day.

But unless you admit that YOU are not satisfied with the little shoes GOD has fitted to your feet, the Last Day will only see you enter, forever, the kingdom of YOU; NOT the Kingdom of Little Jesus.

But, but, but....You have no need to fear admitting that YOU are, daily and much, getting too big for YOUR britches. Why?

Because they were offended at Him. They despised His apostles. And now, the FINAL WORD—I SAY TO Y'ALL!—THE Final Word about you and heaven, God and pretenders is this: This poor pastor, this insignificant man, this other sinner; I forgive you all your sins in the Name of Jesus.