

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalm 123

*Our eyes look to you, O God, until you show us your mercy. (v2)*

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love & peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Mark 6:1-13

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] came to his hometown, & his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup>On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, & many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! <sup>3</sup>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary & brother of James & Joses & Judas & Simon, & are not his sisters here with us?" & they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, & among their own kin, & in their own house." <sup>5</sup>And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people & cured them. <sup>6</sup>And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup>He called the twelve & began to send them out two by two, & gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; <sup>9</sup>but to wear sandals & not to put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup>He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. <sup>11</sup>If any place will not welcome you & they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." <sup>12</sup>So they went out & proclaimed that all should repent. <sup>13</sup>They cast out many demons, & anointed with oil many who were sick & cured them.

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How does this episode compare to the recent one in 3:20-25? What about 2:2-5, 5:34?
2. Consider the disciples' sending as a mirror of Jesus' own ministry thus far. What connections & parallels do you find? See also *Mark 1:14-15, 13:9-13*

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Review the Formula of Concord\* *Epitome* VII: 6, 42; & *Solid Declaration* VII: 9-11, 36-40, 127. Here we read how in Holy Communion that the infinite (i.e. God's essence; presence) can indeed be found in finite circumstances (i.e. flesh & blood Jesus; bread & wine). How do the naysayers (vv1-3) commit the error of denying this? As you consider this reality of the Incarnation where else does this logic show up in our faith? What (false) conclusions does denying it lead to?
4. It's been said that people who have changed your diaper don't want your advice about money, marriage, or religion (*cf. v3*). When have you ignored the truth because of this diaper changing syndrome? How did things turn out? When have you been ignored because of the same? Looking back, how could you have presented your point differently?

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. This comedic article from the Babylon Bee <https://bit.ly/3xpxjks> makes a sharp point. What holds you back from showing & telling the people of your own household about Jesus? See *1 Timothy 5:8*
6. How do vv6-13 encourage you & your fellow congregational members to keep moving throughout everyday life to share God's mercy, forgiveness, & love with new people not here with us yet? Review Pr. Greg Finke's *Take 10* exercise to help you connect with God & others. Available [dwelling114.org/take10-tutorial-guide](http://dwelling114.org/take10-tutorial-guide) \***FC Ep** & **SD** available [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org)

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Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

07.07.24

Series: The Shape of Belief

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

*Our inward beliefs about Jesus shape our outward lives*

Amid Unbelief

*The notion that the finite can contain the infinite still challenges us today*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: And [Jesus] was amazed at their unbelief. (v6a)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

I will boast gladly of my weaknesses,  
so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

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