

What does negative criticism and rejection do?

Q9.How did Jesus respond to the rejection Mark 6:6

The twelve disciples had been with Jesus when he was rejected at Nazareth. Jesus had been training them for mission. Now he sends them out in two's on mission without him.

Q10.What support did they have on their mission? Mark 6:7-9

What did this mean?

Q11.Showing hospitality was a widespread expected custom in Jesus' day. Even so some people will reject them? What does Jesus tell them to do when rejected?

Were they to expect rejection by some? How would they deal with rejection?

Q12.How important are actual mission trips and experience in training? See Mark 6:12-13

Later Jesus would send them out and go away Himself to heaven leaving them to the task without him physically being with them (See Mark 16:15-20; Matthew 28:18-20 Acts 1:8-11). Was Jesus a good trainer? How?

The Best News Ever

A Series in the Gospel of Mark

11.Handling Rejection

Mark 6:1-13

Jesus was astonished at the unbelief he found at Nazareth when he went back home. Clearly, rejection even from the most hurtful of places is to be expected. His family rejected him. His hometown rejected him. His nation rejected him and the Romans crucified Him. If we are a disciple / Christian, we can expect to be rejected too.

To be rejected can be hurtful and incredibly disappointing. One can feel incredibly misunderstood and can feel like giving up.

Jesus took His disciples everywhere with him so as to train them for the work He wanted them to do after him. The writer Mark, at the time of writing was in Rome where Christians were being rejected, persecuted and being exterminated under Emperor Nero. In Mark 6:1-13 he gathers together the experience Jesus had and the training Jesus gave about rejection and the serious consequences of unbelief.

Q1.Did Jesus go back to his home town with his disciples for a nostalgic visit or for ministry? Mark 6:1-2a

Q2.In this context, many of the listeners shared the same upbringing as Jesus, but Jesus had clearly turned out very different, successful and special and had a rising reputation and popularity? How come? How did that happen? Why him and not me? They were astonished at Jesus. From Mark 6:2 what were the

questions they were asking and what answers do you think they would have given to each of those questions?

A carpenter was a person who worked with wood, but they were often very skilled craftsmen, building houses, boats and temples. They were also handymen in the village who could make and fix everything from chicken coups, walls, fences and furniture to gates. Elsewhere it says that Joseph was a carpenter (Matthew 13:55), here in Mark 6:3 the text says that Jesus himself was a carpenter.

Q3. In Mark 6:3 Jesus is described as “the son of Mary”. It is not usual to be identified by the mother. What might this indicate?

Q4. Presumably Jesus was a carpenter till he went into ministry at the age of 30 and died at 33. If Joseph had died some time back might that have had a bearing on why he waited so long to commence His public ministry?

Q5. Did the people think his family could in anyway explain his extraordinary ministry? Mark 6:3

Q6. Should loving families be warmly supportive of one of their own who does well? Why is the opposite of what should be the case, so common as to be proverbial? Why do people so familiar with others often take offence? Mark 6:4

For some, family gatherings (eg at Christmas?) are often painful and spiteful. Why might that be so?

Q7. Can the congregational context of ministry affect the outcome of a preachers ministry? How? Mark 6:5-6

If you had been in the congregation that day in Nazareth, what firsthand impression would you have gained of Jesus’ ministry? Was He all that others had been previously reporting about Him?

Q8. Mark 6:6a says that “He marvelled because of their unbelief”. This is the only time in Mark’s gospel that Jesus is said to marvel at anything. Why was Jesus so taken back by it?

How important is faith in Christian ministry?

How important is faith in a Christian community?