

Mark 6

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Thoughts from Deacon Adam

Back in his hometown, Jesus finds His power to perform miracles limited by a lack of faith in the people. How is this possible? Surely, Jesus can just sovereignly heal anyone if He wants to, right? Apparently not. Contrary to popular opinion, there is a way to block Jesus' power from fully working in our lives and that is unbelief.



So how does this work? Let's break it down. The short version is that unbelief challenges either God's power or God's heart. We doubt God's ability, or else we doubt God's desire to intervene on our behalf.

In our culture, it is usually the latter rather than the former. If we think we are praying with faith about something and it doesn't look like it is happening, we often take a step back and say, "I guess, it's not what God wanted."

But wait, did Jesus ever say that? How about when the disciples couldn't heal someone, did they ever conclude that healing must not have been God's will for that person? Never. They were walking around with Mr. Healing Himself, day after day hearing about what the Father is like and what He wants for us, and then seeing it demonstrated right before their eyes, over and over. They based their theology on what Jesus said and did. Instead, we often base our theology on what happens around us. That difference in perspective makes all the difference in the outcome.

In our time, when someone speaks with certainty about an outcome regarding a matter they have brought to God in prayer, we may be tempted to judge them as presumptuous, or at least silly. And they might be... but it might actually be a God-given, supernatural faith, growing within them and beginning to alter the natural world around them. Here is the crux of matter: Faith often looks like pride or insanity to those without faith. Anyone who dares to take a step onto a new level of faith receives accusations of arrogance or madness, sometimes even from their own friends and family.

Trying to be humble, we say many things like, "You can never be sure," or "God's will is going to be done." But a quick read through any of the gospels and we find Jesus frequently insisting that we really *can* be sure of receiving whatever we ask for in faith. Going even further, Jesus teaches that it is God's will for us to grow close enough to Him to be able to rely upon both His ability and His desire to do the miraculous for us, that He may be glorified in us.

But hold on a minute, we protest. After all, we've tried to have faith for things before and it didn't work, right? Faith is not something we try. Faith is not optimism, or positive thinking. Faith is relational. Faith hears what the Father is saying, and sees what the Father is doing, and follows until the impossible becomes possible.