

## Campfire Tales: Stories the Disciples Told: - Catch and Release

Mark 6:1-13

If you'd like to compare the parallel texts, after you read Mark 6 take a look at Matthew 13:54-58 and Luke 4:16-37. How are the texts similar and how are they different? For added background read Isaiah 61.

Imagine returning to your home town and your home church as a young adult. You meet up with some friends you used to hang with, former youth leader and Sunday School Teachers. You weren't necessarily a "bad" kid, and you may have been a leader, but now mount the platform, taking your place behind the pulpit/lectern and deliver the sermon. You are pretty direct with them – even pointing out things where you think they "got it wrong".

What does that scenario stir up in you? Has something like that actually happened to you?

Nazareth is the one place that Jesus did not perform miracles. Mark says that Jesus was amazed at the lack the people's lack of faith.

When you've returned home – or perhaps to somewhere you once lived – did you experience a difference in the level of people's faith? Had their engagement with Christ stayed the same or had it grown? Was it different (more faith or less faith) than what you remembered?

What does this passage tell us about how our faith plays a role in the things we ask God for? Look back to Mark 5:34. How did the woman's faith impact her healing from bleeding? How about the disciple Thomas and

Later in Mark Jesus meets another distraught parent desiring healing for a child. In exasperation that man says, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" Mark 9:24

How might our faith be strengthened if that becomes our first request of the Holy Spirit?

Jesus also sends out the disciples, two-by-two, into the villages to actively participate in ministry. He tells them to take nothing and if there is no interest to leave the community.

Jesus gives them responsibility and authority. Do you believe you have been given responsibility and authority from Jesus? Responsibility for what? Authority to do what?

According to verse 13 the disciples were afforded some measure of success.

Do you feel successful in ministry that you participate in at FRC? What would success look like?