


WHO IS THIS MAN?



The Offensive God

- What is something that stood out to you from Last Sunday's teaching?
- Everyone answer: Have you ever felt like you were in someone's shadow?
 - What does that mean? To be in someone's shadow?
 - Have you ever been in someone's shadow and you didn't want to be, but you just couldn't get out? Describe the emotions you were feeling.
 - Some people like to be the one's who create the shadow. Why do you think that is ?
 - Some people like to remain in the shadow. Why do you think that is?
 - Which of these do you think is the healthier approach?
- Read Mark 6:1-6a
 - The crowd in the synagogue refer to Jesus as "Mary's Son". In the culture of our text it was custom to identify someone by their father's lineage. They didn't call Jesus, "Son of Joseph". What connotations do you think that this has on the attitude of the crowd towards Jesus in this scene? *Scholars suggest that calling Jesus the Son of Mary is a public dig at the scandal that surrounded the birth of Jesus. That Mary gave birth to a son that was not Joseph's. Hence it is a slur on Jesus.*
 - Pastor John taught us that "familiarity breeds contempt". Jesus says this in our passage by saying that "a prophet is dishonored only in his hometown". Why do you think we are more likely to be jealous or offended at the success of people that we know vs people that we don't?
 - There seems to be a contradiction in v. 5-6. It says that Jesus could not do any miracles there, but he did heal some of the sick. So he did do miracles there. How can you resolve this contradiction? *Jesus still retains the power to do mighty works in the face of disbelief. What he cannot do is compel acceptance. Acceptance IS a miracle.*
- In his teaching, Pastor Jon taught us that Jesus radical inclusiveness AND his radical exclusiveness are both offensive to the world. We are to include the "least of these" in the Kingdom. But only those who receive Christ will a part of the Kingdom. *Can you think of modern day examples of how each of these thoughts are offensive in our current cultural climate?*
 - In what ways have you personally had to overcome Jesus' inclusiveness and exclusiveness?