

# **Obstacles that Hinder Faith in Jesus**

**Mark 6:1-6a**

## **1. Amazement without Acceptance**

The people were amazed by what Jesus taught at the synagogue but failed to accept the good news that Jesus was teaching because they were unwilling to accept Jesus identity; Jesus as the Messiah, the Saviour to save us from our sin, being God in the flesh.

### **a) Rejecting the Obvious vs. 1-2**

The Jews asked the write questions, “Where did this man receive such wisdom?”, and “What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?”, but they were not willing to accept the obvious answer that Jesus is God the Messiah.

### **b) Responding with Irrelevance vs. 3**

The Jews began to focus on irrelevant information about Jesus which did not hinder Jesus’ identity, but they chose to allow this information to become a stumbling block for having faith.

The book of Mark was written to believers who began to be complacent in their faith. Mark reminds the original audience that accepting who Jesus is, and what His teachings are is what allows one’s faith to become vibrant. Choosing to reject the obvious truths of God’s Word and deciding to place your focus on irrelevant information will lead to a complacent faith.

## **2. Resistance Hinders Your Experience with God vs. 4-6**

Since the people of Nazareth rejected Jesus as the Divine Messiah, Jesus did only a couple of miracles, as the purpose of His miracles was to confirm and reveal Himself as the Lord and Messiah, and to lead sinners to saving faith. However, the people of Nazareth were not interested in Jesus true identity and His teachings, and so miracles were unnecessary.

When a believer chooses to resist the teachings of God’s Word, or begin choosing to reject Jesus true identity, it hinders our relationship with God and the wonderful experiences that He gives us to experience.

**Questions:**

- What are some ways we might unconsciously limit God's work in our lives due to preconceived notions or past experiences?
- What are some common reasons why people might reject Jesus or find it difficult to believe in him, even when presented with evidence of his power and wisdom?
- If you're a Christ-follower, what is the greatest obstacle for you to have complete faith in Jesus and the excitement of living according to His plans?

or

If you're not a Christ-follower, what is your greatest obstacle to believing that Jesus is God?  
Please share this obstacle with someone you trust, so we can support you through your struggle.