

Sunday, July 5th. This week we're going to look at the Gospel.

Think: a bit of info before you read...

Mark wrote his Gospel somewhere between 30 and 50 years after Jesus had died, and he wrote it down to make sure people didn't forget the stories about Jesus, and to make sure that other people could hear them too.

Let's pray: *Holy Spirit, speak to me through your word...*

Mark 6:1-6

He left there and returned to his hometown. His disciples came along. On the Sabbath, he gave a lecture in the meeting place. He made a real hit, impressing everyone. "We had no idea he was this good!" they said. "How did he get so wise all of a sudden, get such ability?"

But in the next breath they were cutting him down: "He's just a carpenter—Mary's boy. We've known him since he was a kid. We know his brothers, James, Justus, Jude, and Simon, and his sisters. Who does he think he is?" They tripped over what little they knew about him and fell, sprawling. And they never got any further.

Jesus told them, "A prophet has little honour in his hometown, among his relatives, on the streets he played in as a child." Jesus wasn't able to do much of anything there—he laid hands on a few sick people and healed them, that's all. He couldn't get over their stubbornness. He left and made a circuit of the other villages, teaching.

THE MESSAGE

Reflect: This story is another example of people not knowing who Jesus really is! He seems extraordinary, but as far as they're concerned he's just a local lad, and he can't be *that* special. And so they 'tripped over' their thoughts, and didn't get to see the truth about him or his teachings. What do people think about Jesus today, that might stop them recognising him as not just a man but the son of God as well?

Action: When Jesus spoke about God and about life, everyone agreed that he was amazing to listen to. Next time you find yourself in assembly, or at Church and you're listening to someone speak about God and about life, try to listen really hard, and to remember what was said... you never know, it might just be amazing ;-)