



HEBRON

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Dr. Landon Dowden

**DO NOT SHRINK BACK**

**Mark 6:1-29**

**Passage in a Sentence:** Because we are convinced of who Jesus is and what He's called us to do, let us not shrink back from declaring the gospel, even if it costs us our lives.

The factual revelation of Jesus demands our faithful response to Jesus even in the face of fierce rejection.

- I. **We will shrink back from giving Truth, if we doubt who Christ is. (6:1-6)**
  - a. Each person in our city and in our world, including ourselves, has the need to see Jesus for whom He really is!
  - b. The factual revelation of Jesus in His hometown was met with unfaithful rejection.
    - i. The people were astonished.
    - ii. The people were offended.
    - iii. Gardner: His fellow citizens recognize nothing remarkable about His background. No one apparently notices him as a prodigy or says to him: "I always knew that you would grow up to be the Messiah." Not even his family members, according to Mark, recognize his divine vocation. His fellow townsmen deem themselves to be His equal and regard him simply as the neighbor's boy, a local artisan.
  - c. For the sake of the Gospel:
    - i. May Jesus never marvel at our unbelief.
    - ii. May others never suffer because of our unbelief.
    - iii. May we never be desensitized to Jesus.
    - iv. May we never be held back by other's perception of us.
  - d. Fortunately, a preset foolish perspective does not have to be a final perspective. May God in His grace use the Gospel so that a factual revelation of Jesus moves those to whom we are sharing the Gospel to have a faithful response.
  
- II. **We will shrink back from giving Truth, if we doubt Christ's plan and provision and we do not consider advancing the gospel as a privilege. (6:7-13)**
  - a. We need to trust His plan.
  - b. We need to trust His power.
  - c. We need to trust His provision.
  - d. We need to be prepared.
  - e. We need to count ministry as a privilege.

- III. We will shrink back from giving Truth, if self-preservation is more important than Christ-proclamation and if we fear persecution more than we delight in His pleasure. (6:14-29)**
- a. As believers, we should fear disobedience more than we fear death.
  - b. Like John, let us be faithful in our race.
  - c. Like John, let us trust God for the finish of our race.