

Perception versus Truth; Mark 6:1-6

- I. Perception
 - a. We tend to remember friends and family by what they were like when they were younger.
 - b. We often fail to see what friends or family have become.
 - i. They go to college or the military, and when they return, we still think of them as who they were when they left.
 - ii. They may have become experts in a particular field, but that is not how we see them.
 - iii. It takes time and examples of their work for our perception to change.
 - c. Jesus experienced this in his hometown twice.
 - i. Mark 6:1–6
 - ii. The passage in Luke is different.
 1. Mark tells us His disciples followed Him into Nazareth.
 2. Luke tells us He chose his first disciples (Peter, James, and John) after He visited Nazareth (Luke 5:1-11).
 3. We must conclude that they are two different visits.
 4. This distinction is essential in understanding the mercy and grace Jesus bestows on us.
 - iii. The Nazarenes were “astonished.”
 1. To strike out with panic, to amaze.¹
 2. “They did not disagree with His teachings but questioned His qualifications and schooling.”²
 - d. This visit was Nazareth’s final opportunity to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, so Mark shows us three criteria.
 - i. Where did this man get these things?
 - ii. What is the wisdom given to him?
 - iii. How did he do such mighty works?
- II. Where did Jesus get it?
 - a. We recognize schools by the quality of their teaching.
 - i. A widely recognized law school is Harvard.
 - ii. An acclaimed school of photography is Berkley.
 - iii. Texas Tech is known regionally for its engineering and medical programs.
 - b. It is not what you know but where you went to school.
 - i. We would listen to someone talk about the law if they graduated from Harvard.
 - ii. We tend to dismiss someone from a no-name law school.
 - c. If Jesus had been brought up as a Pharisee, they would have accepted Him.
 - i. Pharisees would have taught him.
 - ii. He would have studied the Talmud (the central text of Judaism)

¹ William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 308.

² Robert James Dr. Utley, [*The Gospel according to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter*](#), vol. Volume 2, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2000), 71.

- iii. The Talmud comprises the Mishnah (the first major written work of Jewish oral tradition) and the Gemara (Jewish commentary of the Mishnah).
 - d. Where did Jesus receive His instruction? Is His schooling just as good, if not better, than the Jewish teachings?
 - i. Luke 2:41-49
 - ii. Some versions say, “about my Father’s business.”
 - iii. Luke 10:21–24 (ESV) ²¹ In that same hour, he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²² All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” ²³ Then turning to the disciples he said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”
 - e. Where did the Lawyers and Pharisees get their teachings?
 - i. The Talmud
 - 1. Mishnah (Jewish oral traditions)
 - 2. Gemara (Rabbinical commentary on the Mishnah)
 - ii. The Lawyers and Pharisees received their teaching from man.
 - f. Jesus received His teachings directly from the Father, the “Lord of heaven and Earth.”
 - g. Jesus’ schooling far surpasses any of the ivy league schools of the 1st or even 21st century!
- III. What is the Wisdom?
 - a. Jesus’ wisdom.
 - i. Mark 12:13–17 (ESV) ¹³ And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. ¹⁴ And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?” ¹⁵ But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” ¹⁶ And they brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar’s.” ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they marveled at him.
 - ii. Matthew 22:34-46
 - b. Where did His wisdom come from?
 - i. There are two kinds of wisdom.
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 1:20–25 (ESV) ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save

those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

- iii. Luke 2:39–40 (ESV) ³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

- c. Jesus received wisdom from the “Lord of Heaven and Earth.”

IV. His Mighty Works?

- a. The Pharisees accuse Jesus of receiving His power from Satan.

- i. Matthew 12:22–24 (ESV) ²² Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. ²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, “Can this be the Son of David?” ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.”
- ii. In the Talmud (the central text of Judaism), the Rabbis write that Jesus’ power comes from Satan.
- iii. The Talmud does not challenge that Jesus performed these miracles, just where He received His power.

- b. Jesus’ power does not come from Satan.

- i. Mark 4:35–5:43
 1. Jesus calms a storm (power over the earthly).
 2. Jesus casts out demons (power over the spiritual).
 3. Jesus heals a woman’s illness (power over the physical).
 4. Jesus raises a dead girl back to life (power over death).
- ii. John 5:36 (ESV) ³⁶ But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.

- c. Jesus received His power to do these mighty works from the “Lord of heaven and earth.”

V. Perception Versus Truth

- a. What do you see?
- b. Do you have a perception of Jesus that conforms to your ideas about faith and religion?
- c. Do you see the truth of Jesus, God’s only unique son sent to redeem the lost, and that salvation is found only in His name?

