



July 8, 2018 Mark 6:1-6 & Ezek. 2: 2-5

<http://www.theark1.com>

Connie May © 6/1/18

Drawing with permission by Fr. Robert Beck

Link to [Beck](#) (paywall) other [Beck](#)

Stone, Naomi. [Listening to the Voice Within](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [Prophecy... Challenge and Comfort](#)

[New Melleray Monastery Sunday Homilies](#)

[Carpenter's son](#)

#### **ENTERING THE SCENE:**

The small community of Nazareth was located in a valley just 4 miles downhill from Sepphoris, the central garrison city from which Herod Antipas controlled Galilee. During the early days of the first century, Herod enlarged and rebuilt the fortress, located on the flat summit of a hill, to make it the "ornament of Galilee." How would the close proximity of this pagan, military enclave have affected the lives of the Jewish citizens of Nazareth? Certainly it must have made them fearful. It is also safe to assume that parents taught their children from their earliest years to avoid any disorderly conduct in the streets that might attract the attention of mercenaries on their way to and from Sepphoris or of the watchmen on its walls. Such restraint was essential to safeguard not only individual freedom but the security of the community. (See below for more information)

#### **Mark 6:1-6**

1 Jesus left there and went to his **hometown** accompanied by his disciples. 2 When the **Sabbath** came, he began to teach in the **synagogue**, and many who heard him were **amazed**. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this **wisdom** that has been given him, that he even does **miracles**!" 3 Isn't this the **carpenter**? Isn't this **Mary's son** and the **brother** of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his **sisters** here **with us**?" And they took **offense** at him. 4 Jesus said to them, "**Only** in his **hometown**, among his **relatives** and in his own house is a **prophet** without **honor**." 5 He could not do any **miracles** there, except **lay his hands** on a few sick people and heal them. 6 And he was **amazed** at their **lack of faith**. Then Jesus went around **teaching** from **village to village**.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Have you ever been discounted because people had you stereotyped? If so can this help you understand this portion of the gospel?

**PRAYER:** Neighbor Jesus, you are all grown up now and my how you have developed! My old memories of those days past keep getting in my way of hearing you sometimes. I marvel at your words and deeds, and then, those nagging doubts whispers in my ear, "that's not what I was taught". Help me to trust my own grown up experience of your love so I can be open and ready to receive all that you have to give me. Amen.