



## **The Story & Way of Jesus**

### **No Offense**

Mark 6:1-13

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### **Mark 6:1-13**

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. 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? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? 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. Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him,

he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

“If you could only change one thing for 2022, stop using this phrase: It will improve your relationships and strengthen credibility...”

- *Inc Magazine* [December 2021]

“No offense.”

If you could only change one thing in 2022, learn to stop *taking* offense. It will improve your relationships and strengthen your credibility.

The Offended Crowd (v. 1-4)

### **Mark 6:3**

“And they took offense...”

“Whenever we [take offense] it’s because we believe our kingdom just got invaded.”

- Dallas Willard

### **1 Corinthians 13:5**

“...love is not easily offended.”

## **Mark 6:5-6**

He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

What if we were so secure in who we were that we could remain delightfully unoffendable?

The Unoffended King (v. 4-6)

## **Mark 6:4**

Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.”

## **Mark 6:6**

He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Jesus’ non-anxious presence allows him to *take* “no-offense.”

Self-Differentiation is the ability to remain connected in relationship to significant people in our lives, and yet not have our reactions and behavior determined by them.

Connected: moving toward others who have defined themselves differently than you do.

Emotional Maturity is defined in two parts:

1. Defining myself—what I believe, think, say, want, and am going to do.
2. And at the same time to stay connected to somebody who sees it differently from the way I do.

“One person’s ability to firmly maintain ‘self’ in an anxious system interrupts the infectious spread of anxiety through the system. If people understand how they are part of a system problem—not its cause—they can be more confident that just managing themselves well in tense times will be sufficient to halt escalating chronic anxiety in the system. It is unnecessary and counterproductive to try to change others.”

- Michael Ker, *Bowen Theory’s Secrets*

### **Mark 6:5**

He could not do any miracles there, *except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.*

### The Way to Close the Gap

Jesus invites us to live in the confidence of his non-anxious presence.

### Two Practices For Taking No Offense

1. Define Your New Self: Practice, envision, daydream as though the new creation has come.
2. Disrupt Your Autopilot: Define how you react when you feel anxious. How do you take the old self and put on the new self?