

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Mark 6:1-6

Jesus Christ the Son of God, in other words God in human flesh, has all power at His command. He spoke the universe into being. He is the creator God. However, our Gospel reading for today tells us He could do no mighty work in His home community. How is that possible?

Jesus was among his own people, in His home town. His teaching and His wisdom amazed these people. They were even impressed by what they had heard He had done in other towns.

But why could He do no mighty work there? This problem, and the answer to it, is one that we still find in the church today.

We are comparing the church of today with Jesus' hometown.

We are, according to scripture, the children of God, and joint heirs with Christ. In essence, we are His home community, His people. We, too, are impressed by the teachings of Jesus, His wisdom and the miracles that we read about in God's word.

Why then do we not see Jesus at work in mighty ways today? It is for the very same reason He could do no mighty work back then in His home town. Yes, Mark tells us in his Gospel reading today, that He laid hands on a few and healed them, but there was no mighty work done. Why not?

Let's look at verse six in our Gospel reading for the answer. It says, "and He marvelled because of their unbelief." In other words, Jesus marvelled because of their lack of faith. That lack of faith is the very reason that the church of today sees very

little, or no, great work.

Of course, we do have some of our prayers answered, we do see God working in our midst, the Bible says He laid hands on a few, He healed a few sick people, and He is still healing today.

He still answers prayer.

But the key point in this passage of scripture is He could do no mighty work. He could not do a God-size task, or a mighty work, because of unbelief, or lack of faith.

That is our major problem today! We don't have the faith, or the belief system, to let go and let God lead in our midst. Churches today say, we don't have the members to get this accomplished.

We don't have the money to get this done. If it costs more than X number of dollars, we can't do it. We've got to keep all the money in the operating account. We are too old to try that. We have never done that before. Well, we have always done it this way. Does any of this sound familiar?

What about this one? I already have too much to do for myself, to take on church work! I'm too tired to participate. I don't have the time to get that done. We're just a small church, and small churches can't do that much. Does any of this sound familiar? What about, how in the world can we get that done?

Well, here is a reminder of how in the world we can get it done!

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us! We need to put our faith, our belief, our trust in God! Don't depend on ourselves to get anything accomplished. We do the things within our ability, but believe and let God do the God-sized tasks.

There is an old saying, put your money where your mouth is, well here is a play on words for us today, let's put our faith where our mouth is. We profess it, so let us believe it! Turn it all over to Him. Jesus said, "whatever you shall ask of the

father in my name, He may give it to you"! Notice He said "may", because it must be in His will to do it.

The message here is this, don't place limits on what God can or cannot do! Do not limit what God can do, based on what is in the Bank Account. Don't forget what God said Himself, "He owns the cattle on a thousand hills".

Don't limit what God can do, based on our feelings that there is no one else in the church who can do that job. God can raise up and use anyone.

Don't limit what God can do, based on 24 hours in a day, and our lack of time. Everybody gets the same 24 hours we do. God made time for us didn't He? He took the time to die for us!

Take the time and do something for Him.

Don't limit what God can do, based on our own strength. God is all-powerful. He is all we need. He will strengthen us.

Don't limit what God can do, based on our lack of vision for His church. Don't let our vision of the church, cloud what God has in store for the church as a whole.

In other words, just because we don't agree with it, don't hold God back by trying to persuade everyone else that it is wrong for us to go in a particular direction. This does nothing but show our lack of faith in God, and all our faith in our own abilities and opinions. God sees all and knows what He has planned for us.

Don't limit what God can do because of our lack of faith in His power. God stopped the sun for a day; He caused the sun to go backwards. He can do anything. God can build our faith, if we let Him.

We need to follow God's lead. We do not need to be like the people in Jesus' hometown. They did not believe, they missed out on untold blessings because of their unbelief. We need to put all of our faith and trust in Jesus. We need to follow God's

lead, accept what He wants and have the faith that He will provide and accomplish what He wants, and that He will use us in the process. Trust in Him!

It's all about letting go and letting God be in control and work through us. God says, nothing is impossible with me. He can, if we only believe. Have no doubt in our heart, believe, and God will do a mighty work. There is no room for doubt in the heart of a Christian. There is no room for doubt in the body of Christ, the church, meaning us who are gathered here.

Let us not mock God's power and ability to do a mighty work, by harboring doubt and unbelief in our life. Have faith, believe, and God will do a mighty work.

AMEN.