

Playing God with Jesus **Mark 6:1-13**

Two Boys in Missouri

The Christian Faith is a journey in which we follow Jesus until we get Home. The Bible calls this Discipleship.

What do you do with this Friend who demands that you follow Him even when it hurts and means you give something up that you have come to depend on, good or bad? Are you offended or can you detect His Mercy?

These folks did what we sometimes do when we don't like what Jesus says – they played God with Him. They re-defined Him to suit their lives and broke Him down into small manageable bytes.

We play God with Jesus to excuse ourselves from acknowledging **Him** as God – we minimize our sins, deny our struggles, and rationalize our behavior – because we don't want Him to interfere. We treat Him like a hometown son who should know his place instead of the King that He is.

But Discipleship is the real friendship that Jesus desires. He calls us to follow Him.

You will Stumble and you will Struggle. In between the sweet times...some rough places.

Why? Two Reasons:

1. You are not God – and that is the point of Discipleship.

The Gospel is amazingly liberating because it allows us the honesty of our own humanness. The moment we accept the notion that we are not God we are humbled and liberated.

Ron Mehl – ‘What we don’t surrender to God ends up eating us alive.’

This is the significance of the message of Repentance.

Eugene Peterson – Repentance is “the first word in Christian immigration” – “a leaving that develops into an arriving...”

God doesn’t want you to Repent in order to satisfy some cruel desire on His part. He wants you to be free, and to realize your true home.

2. You are not yet Home

Everyone has to determine where ‘Home’ is. And I think it is important that Jesus leads a group of men who left home to follow Him – only for them to find out that He is rejected in **His** hometown.

Because the Gospel teaches that this is exactly what Jesus did – He left His home in heaven – so that heaven could be ours.

Something happens when we begin to let go let go of our securities and follow Jesus.

John 6:68 – Peter – “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

Hebrews 11:15-16 – “If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country – a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.”