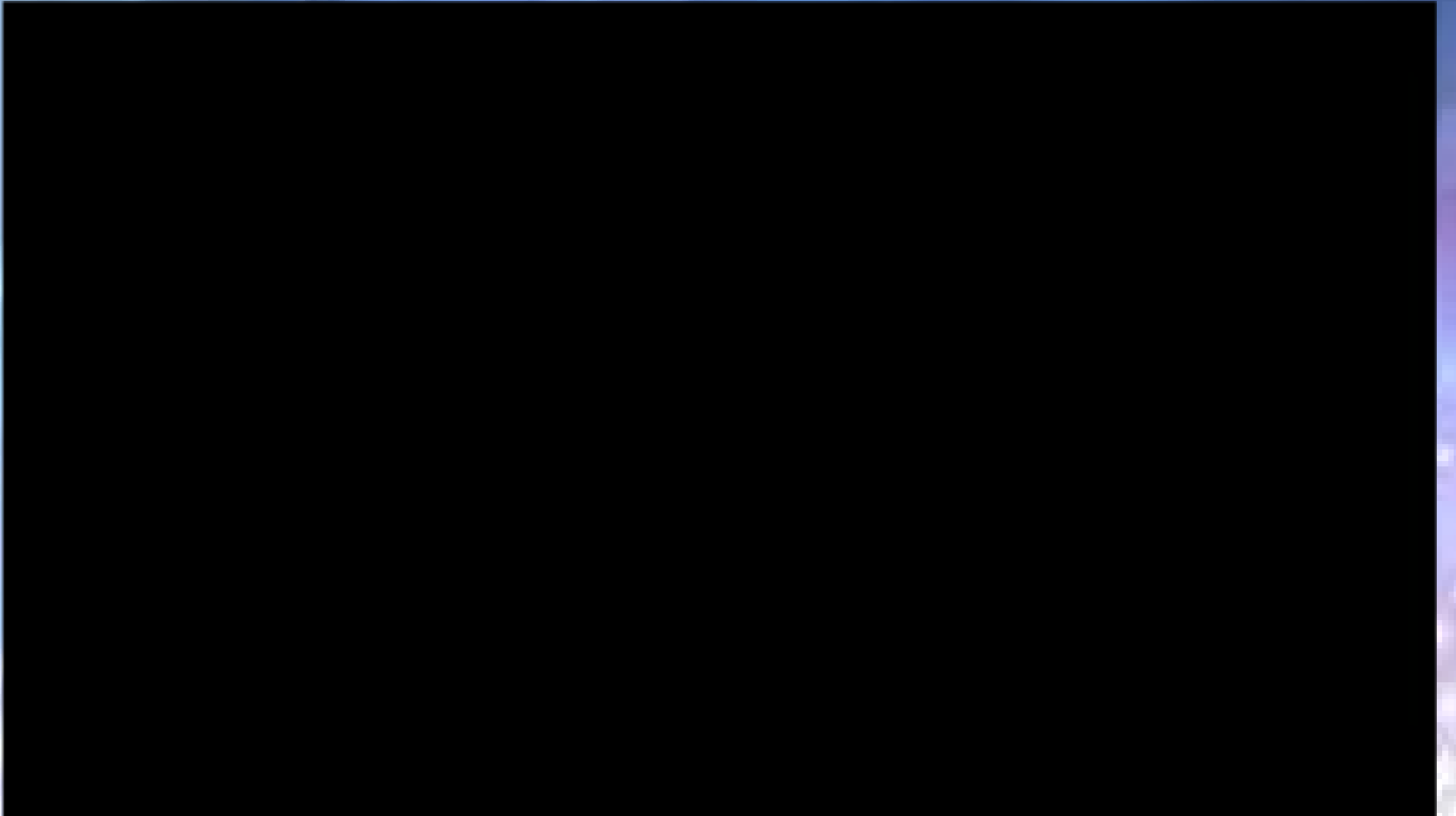




**Right In Front Of You**  
**Mark 6:1-6**



## **It's called inattention blindness**

- It's what happens when you encounter something in a place you aren't at all expecting
- No matter how strange, blatant, or eye-catching it is, our brains just don't want to notice things where we don't think they belong

## **It's called inattention blindness**

- That's why it's so easy to miss the bear amid the basketballs, and why you don't notice your keys when they're right by the door instead of their usual spot on your bedside table

**As a born-again child of God, we are blessed far more than we can even comprehend or imagine**

- **Ephesians 3:20 NIV** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us
- We so often miss this “immeasurably more” because of our inattentiveness to what God is doing around us

**As a born-again child of God, we are blessed far more than we can even comprehend or imagine**

- We are looking for the big and exciting, mountain top experiences and we miss the simple and satisfying
- We don't look for it or expect it

**As a born-again child of God, we are blessed far more than we can even comprehend or imagine**

- Jesus is returning to Nazareth
- The first time in Luke 4 didn't go so well as they rejected Him and even tried to silence him by casting Him out of the city in order to throw Him down the cliff
- Because of grace, Jesus returns with His disciples this time
- **Mark 6:1-6**

## **Jesus is recognized as a visiting Rabbi**

- He has disciples and followers like a Rabbi
- His miracles have preceded His coming, They have heard of them
- Because Jesus is known as a Rabbi, He is given the courtesy of teaching in their synagogue, like a church is today



In **verse 2** it says the people of Nazareth were astonished

- Astonished = to strike with sudden and usually great wonder or surprise, to be fill with sudden and overpowering surprise or wonder, Amazement
- They were astonished not because of the truth spoken by Jesus or the miracles they have heard about
  - But because something like this could come from a person like Jesus

## **Verse 3** – He is just a carpenter who has family here

- They still live amongst us
- He doesn't even really know who His father is
- His family doesn't even believe in Him
- End of **verse 3**, “and they took offense at Him”
  - Took Offense = to stumble over
  - Not because of what Jesus taught or did, just because of who He was in their eyes
  - There is nothing for us to learn from the son of Mary

**Verse 5** Jesus came ready to bless these people and demonstrate His Messiahship, but could not because of their unbelief in Him

- I wonder what God would like to do in our lives that He is hindered from because of our unbelief
- **Verse 6** Jesus was amazed/wondered at their lack of faith
  - Lack of faith = Distrust, uncertainty, a want of trust in the God of promise

**Verse 5** Jesus came ready to bless these people and demonstrate His Messiahship, but could not because of their unbelief in Him

- It almost appears like it caught Jesus off guard
- The only other time scripture says this of Jesus is the faith demonstrated in a Centurion guard
- The people of Nazareth missed the greatest blessing possible, that was so very close. Why?

## **There was no spiritual perception**

- We often miss the blessings and the way of God because we don't see what is right in front of us
- Perception = a capacity for comprehension, to come to realize or understand
- Spiritual perception is to realize and understand what God is doing, saying, will...

## **There was no spiritual perception**

- It not that they did not have the ability to do so, they simply rejected Jesus because they thought they knew Him
- God can't use someone like Jesus
- Unschooled, unaccepted by religions leaders
- And just look at who is following Him – Fishermen, tax collector, religious zealot, the lame/weak/needly
- They were looking for someone/something different than this

## **There was no spiritual perception**

- Sometimes we don't want to see something, because if we see something that means we will be expected to do something
- What is God doing around you, right in front of you?
- Don't ignore it or say someone else will take care of it
- Get involved, whether it is in the lives of those around you or the church you attend

## **Their unbelief hindered Jesus from having a greater ministry among them**

- Jesus came to demonstrate His Messiahship, bless them more than they could imagine
- They looked past Him to a different type of Messiah, one that conformed more to their image of a Messiah
- Do we look past the ministry right in front of us looking for something different?
- Are we so busy, so entrenched, to even recognize our ministry right in front of us



## **Their unbelief hindered Jesus from having a greater ministry among them**

- Our unbelief in the simple ministry in front of us being the greatest ministry in our lives at this time, prevents God from using us in other areas
- We become so focused on making a big impact in one place that we miss the significant impact we can make in another place

## **Their unbelief hindered Jesus from having a greater ministry among them**

- Someone said, “Sometimes we miss a ministry opportunity because we are looking for something in the spotlight rather than recognizing that sometimes the most significant and lasting ministry takes place in the shadows.”

## **Their unbelief hindered Jesus from having a greater ministry among them**

- Ultimately it boils down to this: If we are truly going to see the blessings, opportunities, lessons, and warnings of God we must be always tuned to the whisper and guidance of the Holy Spirit
- If our focus is anyplace other than here we will be in trouble of missing God's opportunity for us now

## **Their unbelief hindered Jesus from having a greater ministry among them**

- Great revivals always start with taking care of the ministries God has put in front of us
- Then as we are faithful, God begins to expand our ministry to other areas
- As we see and feel God working, an excitement begins to build in us, and we just can't keep it in
- You don't have to work up excitement

# **They could not fit Jesus into their lives, so they rejected Him**

- They tried to add Jesus to their belief system, and He would not fit, so they rejected Him
- You don't add Jesus to your belief system, he is your belief system
- Jesus was irrelevant to their lives
- Here was the ministry of the Messiah, right in front of them, and they missed it

# They could not fit Jesus into their lives, so they rejected Him

- Before you cast the first stone
  - What ministry opportunities has Jesus put in front of you that you have not noticed, rejected, let slide
  - What changes has Jesus called you to make that you fully agree and fully forget
  - Are you molding your lives around Jesus or trying to mold Jesus around your lives?

## **I am confident that Jesus wants to do something amazing in your life in 2020**

- In doing amazing things in your life brings amazing things to the life of this congregation or wherever you worship
- But you must be open to change
- How you see yourself, think about yourself, see others, see ministry opportunities around you

## **I am confident that Jesus wants to do something amazing in your life in 2020**

- You must be actively open to identify those ministry opportunities close to you being sensitive to the direction of the Holy Spirit in your life
- God is not impressed by the scale/size of a ministry as He is with the simple obedience to the ministry He has opened up in front of you
- Yield and be blessed





**Psalm 27:13 NIV**

**I remain confident  
of this:  
I will see the  
goodness of the  
Lord  
in the land of  
the living.**