

Sermon Summary

6th after Pentecost

8th July 2012

- Mark 6:1-13 is a passage which includes failure: the rejection of Jesus by the people of his hometown.
- It is a passage which may resonate with our own experience: we may be sorely afflicted by the fact that those who are nearest to us have not come to share our faith, and that our own communities seem so distant from us.
- It could easily become a recipe for despair or complaint.
- It's worth looking at WHERE Mark has placed this story- something which our habit of reading snippets in church often neglects.
- Before this, Jesus has performed a string of miraculous events; the Gaderene swine have jumped off a cliff, a woman with a long-suffered illness has been cured- and Jairus' daughter raised to life.
- Then comes the crash at Nazareth. It is a key moment. How do the disciples react to this failure?
- What would have been the outcome if their response was: That's it- we're stuffed.....
- Let's read on....
- Almost immediately, Jesus sends the disciples out in pairs_ they find that they are able to do as he did, and that their ministry is effective.
- The gospels never sugar-coat the business of mission.
- They remind us that failure is part of the equation.
- But they also remind us that failure is not the end
- They remind us that tenacity and persistence in the face of negative results are a vital component of the Christian's demeanour.

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