

# The Wisdom of Jesus

*“The Cost of Discipleship”*

Mark 6:1-6

Adult Church School  
August 3, 2020

## Mark 6:1-6 (CEV)

Jesus left and returned to his hometown with his disciples.

<sup>2</sup> The next Sabbath he taught in the Jewish meeting place. Many of the people who heard him were amazed and asked, “How can he do all this? Where did he get such wisdom and the power to work these miracles?”

<sup>3</sup> Isn’t he the carpenter, the son of Mary? Aren’t James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon his brothers? Don’t his sisters still live here in our town?” The people were very unhappy because of what he was doing.

<sup>4</sup> But Jesus said, “Prophets are honored by everyone, except the people of their hometown and their relatives and their own family.”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus could not work any miracles there, except to heal a few sick people by placing his hands on them.

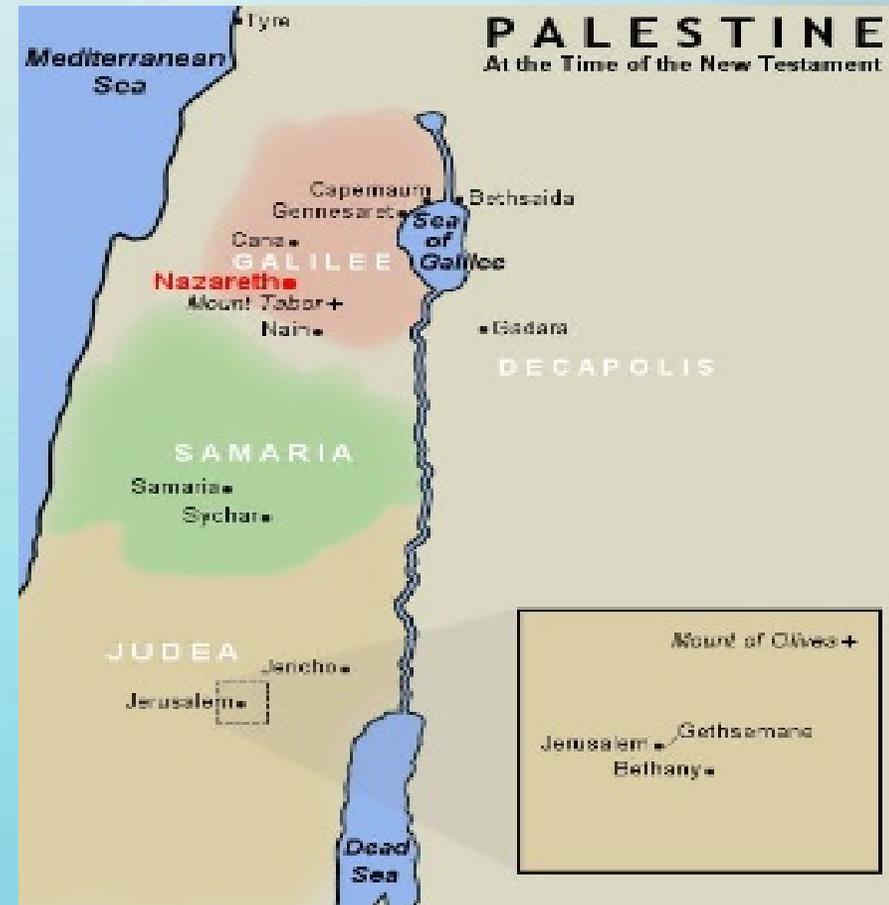
<sup>6</sup> He was surprised that the people did not have any faith.

# Jesus and The Book of Mark

- **Mark** is a book about **Jesus the Messiah**.
- **Messiah**- for some Jews, was the future king of Israel who would *deliver God's people* from their oppressors and establish a *sovereign state* in Israel through God's power.
- **Jesus** did not conform to the general conception of the title **Messiah**. *He neither overthrew the Romans in battle nor arrived on the clouds of heaven in judgment.*
- **Mark** does not mention **Jesus'** birth or His adoptive father directly in his gospel.
- **Jesus** possibly experienced *personal humiliation* when His own family had attempted to lure Him into a place where they could privately restrain Him and take Him back to Nazareth because they believed "He is out of His mind" (3:31-34)
- **Mark's Jesus** was executed for treason against the state.

# Jesus of Nazareth

- A **backwater village** where approximately 120 to 150 persons lived at the time of Jesus.
- This text represents the last time that we will see **Jesus** in Nazareth.
- This is the last time that we will see Him in this or any **synagogue**.



# Jesus Goes Home to Nazareth

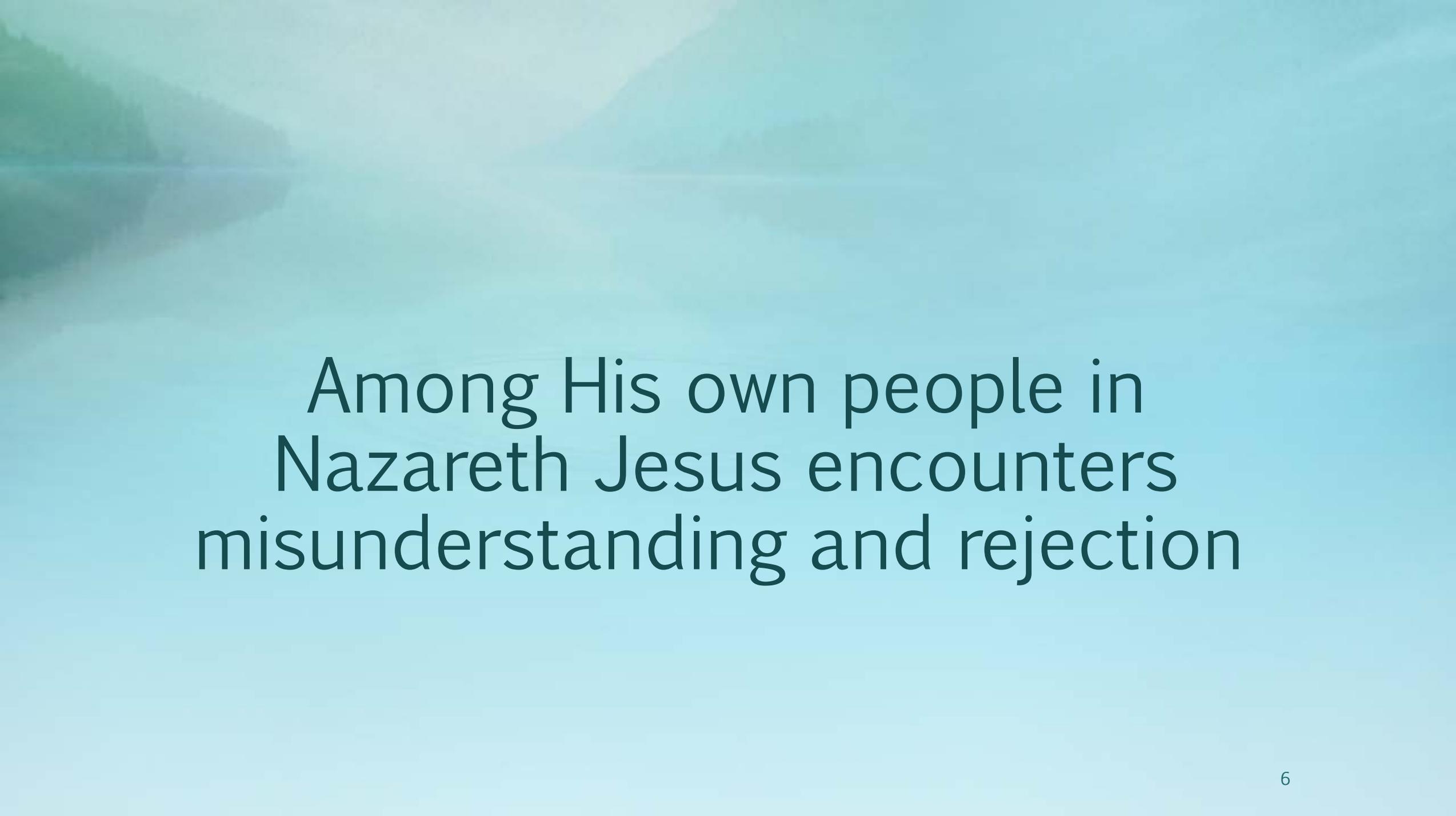
- **Jesus** based His ministry in **Capernaum** .
- **Jesus** leaves the place near the *Sea of Galilee* where He had performed great miracles: (Mark 5) to visit His hometown Nazareth.

In the preceding stories Jesus had displayed lordship over nature, demons and death. He had:

1. **healed** a woman with an issue of blood for 12 years
2. **cast demons** out of a man and sent them into the pigs on the hillside.
3. Raised a young girl from the dead as well as other miracles.

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- **He** travels about 15 miles from this area in Galilee to His hometown, Nazareth.



Among His own people in  
Nazareth Jesus encounters  
misunderstanding and rejection

# Family/Kinship

- **Kinship** – the extended family had a significance in the world of Jesus. The family was extended rather than nuclear, *multigenerational* rather than consisting primarily of parents and children.
- People lived in *extended families* throughout their lifetime rather than growing up and leaving home.
- The extended family was the **primary social and economic unit**. It not only was the source of one's status in the community but also functioned as the primary economic, religious, educational, and social network.
- A man was known as the *son of his father*. A woman was known as the *daughter of her father*.
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# Jesus Goes to the Synagogue

- Jesus went to His home town accompanied by His disciples. According to custom, Jesus goes to the synagogue and began sharing His teaching.
- The key observance for the people of Israel was the **Sabbath**.
- .During the **Babylonian exile**, when the people were far from their homeland the custom of gathering on the **Sabbath** began. It became a day to hear the **sacred books** read aloud and to **pray** together.
- The people were amazed at :
  1. His wisdom
  2. His miracles.
- The people knew that Jesus was not a *schooled rabbi* and yet He spoke with a lucidity and authority beyond any they had ever heard.

## *Isn't This Mary's Son?*

- The people of **Nazareth** wondered about the source and nature of **Jesus' wisdom**.
- The skeptics knew **Jesus' family** therefore they do not believe that **Jesus** should have any special knowledge beyond His trade as a *carpenter*.
- The townspeople do not refer to Jesus by name but with distance and suspicion as “this man” or “the son of Mary”.
- Rarely, if ever in Jewish society was a man referred to as the *son of his mother*, even if his mother was a widow. Such a reference was seen as an insult or as a means of inferring illegitimacy.
- **Jesus' four brothers**: *James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon* are named and His sisters are mentioned. The unnamed sisters usually mean that they were married women.

# They Took Offense

- Offense describes someone or something that causes a person to be faithless in some way. The townspeople were offended. They stumble because Jesus had failed to meet their expectations.
- **Jesus'** family and neighbors can't believe that the one they have been waiting for could actually come from their own town.
- **One** who is as common as they are cannot be inspired by divine wisdom, let alone be wisdom personified.
- They cannot reconcile that the **Jesus** they knew was this new Jesus. They dismiss Him or reduce Him to His work (carpenter) and His family (son of Mary).

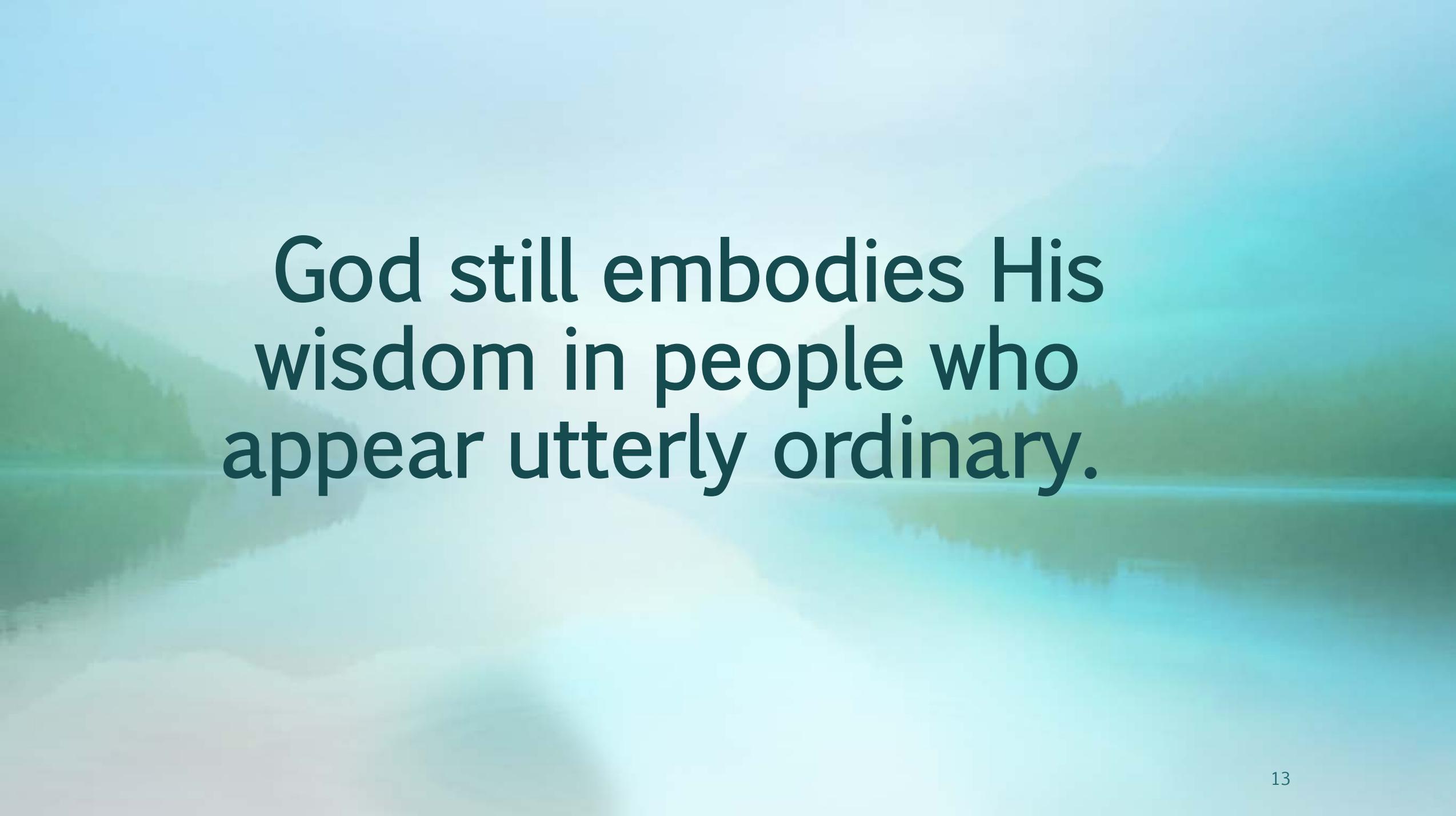
# Jesus Is Amazed

- Their scorn causes **Jesus** to declare, “*Prophets are despised only in their own country, among their relatives and in their own family.*”
- **Jesus** appears to be appalled at the people’s resistance, their pettiness and their refusal to be open to Him.
- This brings a “*split*” with His background. **Jesus** ends this part of His journey by summoning the Twelve and sending them out to share His wisdom and power.
- This lesson teaches **Jesus’ followers** that there will be both welcome and rejection in sharing the Gospel, and always there will be the threat of death.

# Group Chat

We may wonder how anyone could have ignored how exceptional Jesus was, how could the townspeople fail to recognize and be in awe of Jesus? How could they only see Him as ordinary? Before you get too anxious to berate the townspeople of Jesus day, think back to the times you may have taken God's work in your life for granted.

What did Jesus' ministry cost Him? What has your discipleship cost you?



**God still embodies His  
wisdom in people who  
appear utterly ordinary.**

Next Week's Lesson: August 10, 2020

# Wisdom to Follow

John 14:1-14

Background Scripture: Proverbs 3:17; 8:32-46