**God’s Servant Sends**

**Mark 6:1-29**

Unbelief is an active filter inside of us that interprets all of life in a way that leads us farther and farther from God. Unbelief is the lens through which we see all of life . . . and this lens blinds us to the invisible, eternal reality of God and His workings.

**Main Idea: Unbelief is a lethal enemy to each of us. We must treat it quickly with Gospel medicine whenever we see its symptoms. We must close up the cracks in our soul to keep unbelief out of our hearts.**

**Lesson #1: Unbelief is common at home.**

*When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. Matthew 8:10*

Truth: People who are given so little spiritual light are often the very people who exercise marvelous faith. While people who possess great spiritual privileges are the very people who exercise marvelous unbelief. Jesus marvels at both.

Truth: The lack of spiritual privilege does not hinder anyone from receiving the full blessing of God’s salvation that is found in Jesus.

Truth: Spiritual privilege can become spiritual danger if we do not at once humbly repent under its influence.

*“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon , they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you . . . . For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”” (Matthew 11:21-24* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Matt._11:21)*)*

***Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart,*** *leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” (Hebrews 3:12-13* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Heb._3:12)*)*

*And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?* ***So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.”*** *(Hebrews 3:18-19)*

Let us go on watching our hearts, even after we have believed. The root of unbelief is never entirely destroyed. We have only to leave off watching and praying, and a rank crop of unbelief will soon spring up. No prayer is so important as that of the disciples, “Lord, increase our faith.” J. C. Ryle

**Lesson #2: Unbelief is contested by God’s mission.**

“The same sun which melts wax hardens clay. And the same Gospel which melts some persons to repentance hardens others in their sins.” -Charles Spurgeon

*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:3-4* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#2Cor._4:3)*)*

*For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, . . . For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:5-6* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#2Cor._4:5)*)*

Two Actions to Fight Unbelief

Action #1: Repent of your sin and believe the Gospel.

Action #2: Proclaim the Gospel to others.

**Lesson #3: Unbelief is cultivated by God’s confrontation.**

*Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury.*

*Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.” (Proverbs 9:7-8* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Prov._9:7)*)*

Truth: Unbelief often blossoms in the soil of God’s confrontation.

*Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,” (Hebrews 3:7-8* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Heb._3:7)*)*

*For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.””*

*(Hebrews 3:14-15* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Heb._3:14)*)*

*“again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David . . . , in the words already quoted, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”” (Hebrews 4:7* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Heb._4:7)*)*