**ENEMIES OF FAITH:**

**Text: Mark 6:1-6**

* 1 Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him.
* 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing *Him* were astonished, saying, “Where *did* this Man *get* these things?
* And what wisdom *is* this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! 3 Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” So they were offended at Him.
* 4 But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.”
* 5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed *them.* 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

**Intro:**

* As we strive to grow in faith, test are necessary
* Faith untested is weak and unreliable

**AIM:**

* FOR US TO IDENTIFY THE ENEMIES OF FAITH
* FOR US TO BE ABLE TO OVERCOME ALL OF THEM
* FOR US TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH
* The good fight of faith happens when you are in the edge of giving up or when you are in the middle of success and failure.

**I. CONTEXT**

* MARK 5:1-13
* A demon possessed live in the tombs
* No one could bind him, not even with chains
* When he saw Jesus, he ran and worshiped Him
* They were permitted to possess the swine
* Jairus approached Jesus
* Jesus healed woman who had been blessing for 12 years
* Jairus daughter was raised from the dead
* Verse 1- He went to his own country
* When Sabbath came He began to teach in the synagogue
* They were astonished
* Struck with amazement

**II. ENEMIES OF FAITH**

**1. ENVY AND JEALOUSY**

* Jesus was their countryman, of their own kind, relative
* But he was teaching with authority and miracles
* They could not take it
* This could also be due to competition
* People get mad at you because they don’t want to be left behind
* It is okay for them to fail as long as no one else succeed
* They want company to their misery

**2. REJECTION**

* We all have different way of thinking
* We cannot please all the people all the time
* Jesus performed miracles but not all will look on it
* John 15:20 “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.
* They have heard His wisdom and saw the miracles He has done

**3. SIGHT**

* II COR 5:7 We walk by faith not by sight
* They look on Jesus as their own relative or neighbor not as the Son of God
* They rely on their senses
* They do not anticipate the fulfillment of the prophecy

**4. HUMAN KNOWLEDGE**

* Knowledge is the gathering of information
* They knew who Jesus was, His brothers and sisters
* We need to set aside our knowledge because it cannot be relied
* We should have knowledge on God’s Word instead

**5. HUMAN UNDERSTANDING**

* Faith works not by understanding but believing
* To believe means to accept as real or true
* If you understand everything, faith is not required
* When you don’t understand, then all you need to do is to believe

**6. OFFENSES**

* annoyance, displeasure, or resentment, grudges
* Proverbs 18:19 A brother offended *is harder to win* than a strong city,
* And contentions *are* like the bars of a castle.
* When we are offended we ignore people’s goodness and focus on their mistakes

**7. DOUBT**

* to be uncertain about (something)
* to believe that (something) may not be true or is unlikely
* to have no confidence in (someone or something)
* James 1:6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

**8. UNBELIEF**

* the state or quality of not believing
* Lack of faith
* an attitude of doubting the truth of something
* Jesus marvelled because of their unbelief
* Matthew 11:21 “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

**III. A PROPHET IS NOT WITHOUT HONOUR**

* Except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.
* It is an honorable office to be a prophet
* Not all has the privilege to speak on behalf of God
* It is a big responsibility to mind people’s business who are not related to you
* We are doing it on our own interest but we are commissioned to carry out a task to change people through God’s Word
* In all places, prophet will be honoured except in his own country, town, or house

**IV. CONSEQUENCES OF UNBELIEF**

* Jesus could not perform any miracle
* It hinders the power of God
* There is no point answering your prayers, you don’t believe on it anyway
* Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed *them-v 6*
* Mat 12:15But when Jesus knew *it,* He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all.
* Matt 4:24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.

**V. HE WENT ABOUT THE VILLAGES-V 6**

* Faith draws the attention and power of God
* So he departed from them
* Even if people believe in Him He will still go to other places to preach the gospel of the kingdom
* The fact that it was emphasized here that He was teaching them signifies the remedy for unbelief

**CHALLENGE:**

* Are you firm in your reliance with God?
* Are you steadfast and immovable?
* Do you accept His as real or true?

**CONCLUSION:**

MATTHEW 9:29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.”