

*Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way*

July 8, 2018

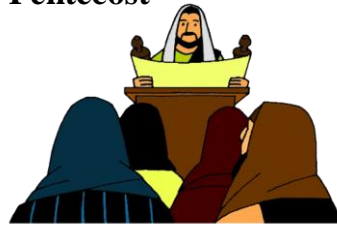
**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

*Ezekiel 2:1-5*

*Psalms 123*

*2 Corinthians 12:2-10*

*Mark 6:1-13*



**Jesus Is Rejected in Nazareth.** *Objects: None.*

Do you feel welcome when you come to church? I hope so! If Jesus were to walk in today, do you think he would feel welcome? You would probably answer, "Yes," to that question. After all, we all know who Jesus is and all of the wonderful things he has done, but would you be surprised to know that Jesus was not welcome in the Synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth?

Jesus had just healed many people and even raised a young girl from the dead as we learned in last week's lesson. He left there and returned to his hometown. As he always did, Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. He began teaching, and many who were there were amazed at what they heard.

Some of the people in the synagogue began to make fun of Jesus. "Who does he think he is? And where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles? Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't he the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Don't his sisters live right here in the same town with us?" They were offended by the teachings of Jesus and refused to believe in him.

Jesus responded to those who rejected him by saying, "A prophet is not accepted in his own hometown." Not only that, but because of their unbelief, Jesus was unable to do any miracles among them except to place his hands upon a few people and heal them.

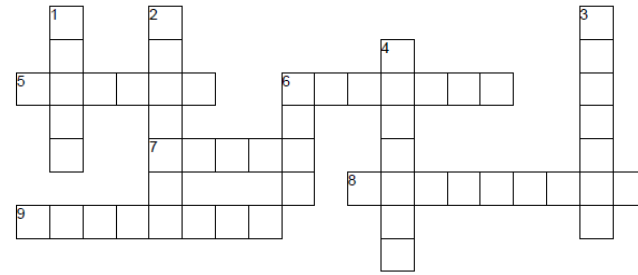
Just as many in Nazareth rejected Jesus, they would also reject his disciples as well. If you and I tell others about Jesus, they might reject us too. They might say, "Who do they think they are? They are just a bunch of kids." Jesus told us to be his witnesses. He never promised that it would be easy.

Father, just as Jesus was rejected in his own hometown, we may also be rejected when we tell others about Jesus. Help us to remain his faithful witnesses, even when it isn't easy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. I will boast gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Alleluia. (2 Cor. 12:9)

# Crossword Puzzle



**HORIZONTAL**

- 5. The ability to judge what is true or right
- 6. An event that can only be done through the power of God
- 7. To treat with great respect
- 8. A person whose job is making and repairing things made from wood
- 9. The town or city where a person was born or grew up

**VERTICAL**

- 1. To have great trust or belief in something or someone
- 2. One who is a spokesman for God to man
- 3. A man or boy with the same parents as another person
- 4. The seventh day of the week, the day of rest and worship for the Jews
- 6. The mother of Jesus

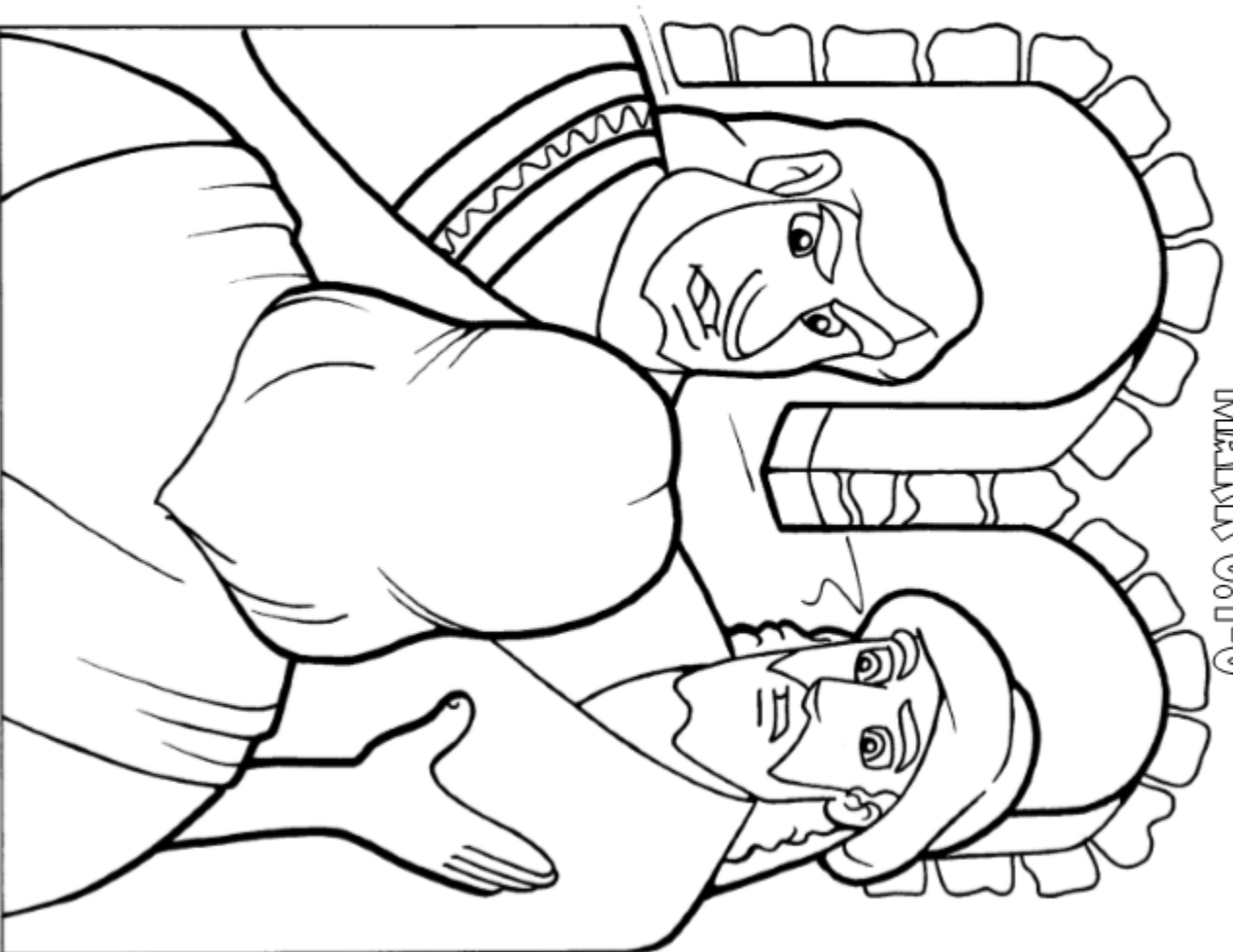
HOMETOWN	MIRACLE	CARPENTER	SABBATH	HONOR
MARY	FAITH	WISDOM	PROPHET	BROTHER

**WELCOME PLACE MAT:** Give the child a sheet of card stock with the word WELCOME stenciled in large letters. Underneath it, write "Whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." Mark 9:37. The child will then decorate their place mat using colored markers and stickers. Cover the place mat with clear contact paper when the drawing is complete so that it can be used at the dinner table.



# REJECTION AT NAZARETH

MARK 6:1-6



**Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown, among his relatives  
and in his own house is a prophet without honor.”  
Mark 6:4 (NIV)**