

Limiting God by Our Words

*And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, **saying**, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? – Read **Mark 6:2-6***

Introduction: The passage does not say that He *would not* do any mighty works, implying lack of willingness. It says that Jesus *could* do no mighty works there. The word “could” is in reference to “ability” or what a person “can do.” Why is this?

1. The passage says that, “*he marvelled because of their unbelief.*” The cause or reason for Jesus’ inability to perform any significant miracles was due to the unbelief. Unbelief actually has the ability to hinder the omnipotent almighty power of God.

- a. Unbelief is expressed through words. Notice v. 2 that the people *said* something, expressing their unbelief in Jesus.
- b. Matt. 17:19-20
- c. When we are in unbelief our “saying power” will not work for our good.
- d. Quite often we blame God for the lack of healings, deliverances and other miracles that should be in the church. We couch it in pious terms such as, “it may not have been the will of God.” However, this is not necessarily true in most cases.

2. Speaking against God

- a. Psalm 78:19-22
- b. Unbelief is speaking **against** God
- c. Unbelief is a sin and it is responsible for our inability to receive from God: “*your sins have withholden good things from you*” (Jer. 5:25)
- d. It is not God’s will that good things be withheld from His people but the responsibility is on God’s own people to receive the good things that the Lord promises (Deut. 6:1-3, 17, 18; 30:15, 19, 20).

e. We actually have the ability to limit God when we speak against Him – Psalm 78:40-43

3. God told the Israelites that He had given them the land:

a. Num. 13:1-2

b. When God makes a promise then it is a done deal before we ever see the visible results of it (Rom. 4:17; 1 Pet. 1:3, 4). If I believe that God is speaking the truth then I can count the things as done before I ever see it (Heb. 11:1; Mark 11:24; 1 John 5:15).

c. Num. 13:31-32

d. Notice that they said something. Their word limited what God wanted to do for them.

e. Num. 14:11, 23 – The word “provoke” can also be translated as “blaspheme”. Blasphemy is speaking against God (Matt. 12:31-32).

f. Num. 14:27-29

g. The Israelites received exactly what they said when they spoke against God. Speaking against God has very negative results.