

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Mark 6: 1-13

1. And suddenly He went out from thence for the noise and celebrations that Jairus and his family were making were sore unto His ears, and the aroma of the cod pieces soup was unappealing, and came into His own country and carpenter's shop; and His disciples follow Him even though it was a lengthy journey and they were super-weary and footsore and did crave a soft bed and a hearty repast.
2. And when the sabbath day was come, He began to teach in the synagogue without invitation: and the leaders of the congregation were mightily put out by His appearance, a trail of sawdust, and the slight whiff of fish, and on hearing Him were astonished, and did question saying, From whence hath this man these things? for they did see the items of furniture that He had brought with Him, and they asked of each other, What wisdom is this which is given unto Him, that even such mighty and decorative works are wrought by His hands?
3. And looking at the chairs and tables and cabinets and scroll-cases and crosses they did ask, Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? [1] and are not His sisters here with us? And at this they sisters did wave from the balcony and call out Yoo-hoo! in affirmation. And they were offended at them and at Jesus, and especially at the disciples who were travel-stained, and many moved up wind.
4. But Jesus, said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house, and a carpenter's work finds little merit amongst those who can afford tables with marble inlays, twisted legs, and fine marquetry.
5. And He could there do no mighty work, save that He laid his hands upon a few sick folk whether they wanted Him to or not, and healed them.
6. And He marvelled because of their unbelief and did leave that place. And He went round about the villages, teaching and expostulating, and the disciples did follow raising their hands in prayer and performing liturgical dance routines with repetitive choruses in the streets.
7. And He called unto him the twelve, and telling them to cease their gyrations began to send them forth by two and two like as Noah had gathered them into the ark [2;] and gave them power over unclean spirits;
8. And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse. And the disciples did demur at this, and so He made a concession and said:
9. But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats which, let's face it in this weather is completely unnecessary. And please, no wearing of hose with sandals.
10. And He said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. Yes, Peter, I know that's an obvious statement. And James and John did wonder if this applied even unto the inns and eating houses, and Thaddeus pondered awhile on divers matters, but Jesus did not elaborate but said,
11. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, or pay any attention to you whatsoever, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them, and blow your noses in their general direction. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city, for their mothers shall be as hamsters and their fathers smell of wayside berries. Or was it their elders smell of wayside fathers? It matters not.
12. And they went out, and preached that men should repent, and women, and others as well. And they did spend much time and energy seeking out those women who had fallen and were in need of reconciliation and the laying on of hands.

13. And they found some – in fact quite a few - and from others they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them. And they did distribute many catalogues [3] showing the fine furniture that was available on special order.

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NOTES:

[1] There is no mention of Joseph in any manuscripts. Some scholars believe that this was an accidental omission in dictation and blame it on what came to be called the Markan Secretary.

[2] In some manuscripts the phrase “Arky-warky” is used.

[3] The 4th century pseudepigraphal Gospel of Hai’Kaiah contains a list, but owing to its descriptions of asses carrying flat packages scholars are unconvinced of its authority.