

October 14 Answers

- 1) It had been about a **year** since the people of Nazareth tried to murder Jesus. In love and mercy, he returned one last time to preach the gospel. This shows us that God is **longsuffering**, not willing that any should perish. Sadly, the people took **offense** and refused to believe. Jesus couldn't do any miracles except for healing a few sick people. This teaches us several important lessons. First, **pride** can keep us from accepting the ministry of others. We need to be careful lest we be offended when someone who was no different than us yesterday becomes something **more** today (Mark 6:3). Second, false **expectations** can be our downfall. We need to make sure our assumptions and beliefs about God are **grounded** in the Word. If they're not, we can be staring truth in the face and never see it. Third, unbelief can frustrate God's grace. If our hearts are not humble and submissive to God's will, we can **prevent** the Spirit from working in our lives. After leaving Nazareth, Jesus sent the twelve disciples out to preach the gospel to "the lost **sheep** of Israel." This commissioning story has much to teach us about ministry. First, our ministry must be motivated by **compassion** (Matt 9:36). If we don't have love and compassion for people, we will not be successful in ministry. Second, our ministry will involve **suffering** (Matt 10:22). We shouldn't be surprised when we experience **persecution** and mistreatment, even by those who claim to be disciples. Third, our ministry must not be controlled by **fear** (Matt 10:28). We must stand **boldly** for the truth and not to be intimidated into saying only what people want to hear.