



# **MATTHEW**

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

## **The King's Limitations!**

**Matthew 13:54:58**

Message #38 of 80 – S1068

**Sermon given on October 22, 2023**



Sunday Morning Service

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# **The King's Limitations!**

***Matthew 13:54:58***

## **Opening Comments**

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 13**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

## **Teaching**

- **The King's Limitations!**
- Most of Matthew 13 tells us of eight parables Jesus used to describe the kingdom of heaven.
- The chapter finishes with Jesus returning to His hometown.
- **Matthew 13:54-57a**
- The previous time Jesus was in Nazareth they tried to throw Him over a cliff.
- Jesus grew up in Nazareth.
- Joseph and Mary had at least six other children, four sons, and at least two daughters – all half-siblings of Jesus.
- Scripture is silent about what happened to Mary's husband Joseph.
- The last mention of him was when Jesus was about twelve.
- He apparently taught Jesus his trade as a carpenter.
- The synagogue in Nazareth is where Jesus was taught about the Jewish faith as a child and young man.
- It is very likely that some of the men who taught Jesus were there that day.
- They may have had things in their home that Jesus had made as a carpenter.
- They are astonished at His teaching.
- Not only were they astonished, but they were also offended by Him.
- This might sound very odd to us.
- This points to a reality that we as believers need to be sensitive to.
- There is the saying, "Familiarity breeds contempt!"

- We have been afforded such amazing privileges in our relationship with Christ.
- But the longer we are saved, the more likely we are to treat those privileges as common and ordinary.
- This causes our heart to be insensitive to the small movements of God in and around us.
- Maybe we can remember when a verse would leap off the page of our Bible and breathe life, peace, and hope into our heart.
- Maybe today you might read that same verse and barely notice it.
- Maybe, in the past, you notice little things God was doing in your life, and today you might not notice God doing anything at all.
- God doesn't change. Speaking of Christ, the writer of Hebrews said... **(Hebrews 13:8)**

**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**

- In Revelation, Jesus accused the church of Ephesus of losing their first love.
- Our natural tendency is to grow cool toward the holy things of God after we have been exposed them for a while.
- So, what can we do about it?
- First, confess it to God and repent, then pray. **(Psalm 119:88)**

**Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, so that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.**

- It was God the Holy Spirit who first lit the fire in your heart for God.
- He is the one who will keep it burning as we yield ourselves to Him through faith and obedience.
- Verse 55 reveals something else we need to be sensitive to in our faith.
- Those in the synagogue at Nazareth knew about Jesus.
- They knew about Jesus, but they did not know Him.
- The same thing can be said for millions of people today, including many in the church.
- They know about Jesus, but they do not know Jesus.
- Knowing Jesus is one of the conditions of entrance into heaven **(Matthew 7:22-23).**

**Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'**

<sup>23</sup> **And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’**

- If Jesus says He never knew you it is because you never knew Him.
- You might know everything the Bible says about Jesus, but if you don’t have a real and living relationship with Him, then you don’t know Him.
- Getting back to our text in Matthew 13, Jesus says this response is not that unusual.
- **Matthew 13:57b**
- This is quoted in John and Luke’s gospels.
- It appears to be a parable that was commonly known.
- How tragic! The very hope of their faith stood before them.
- They were waiting for the Messiah to come.
- As Jesus stood there in their presence, all their hopes for the future had been realized and they despised Him because they knew Him and His family.
- Everything their religion told them they were waiting for was standing right in front of them.
- They had only to believe. They did not and that would cost them something.
- **Matthew 13:58**
- Mark’s gospel says Jesus did some miracles there (**Mark 6:5-6a**). **Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed *them*. <sup>6</sup> And He marveled because of their unbelief.**
- Jesus would have performed more miracles, but their lack of faith limited Him.
- This meant that everyone who needed a mighty work didn’t get one.
- All because they refused to believe in Jesus.
- It is difficult to imagine that God is limited in anyway.
- God is only limited by one thing, Himself.
- God’s sovereign will is the only thing that limits God.
- For example, does God want to save everyone? Yes!
- How about those Hamas butchers who committed those atrocities on October 7<sup>th</sup> in Israel? Yes!

- Could God forgive them and save them? Yes, with God nothing is impossible.
- Can He save them anyway He chooses to? No!
- He has chosen the way they and everyone else on earth can be saved (**John 14:6**).

**Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**

- Some would like to believe that God saves people by their good works.
- They imagine that if they do more good deeds than evil deeds that they will get into heaven.
- God has limited Himself to saving people one way, through faith in His Son Jesus Christ.
- Jesus didn’t do many mighty works in Nazareth because of their unbelief.
- Faith is not something we have so that we can be saved (**Romans 1:16-17**).

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.**

<sup>17</sup> **For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”**

- Faith is how we live, and faith is how we relate to God (**Hebrews 11:6**).

<sup>6</sup> **But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

- Listen, faith is how God chose to relate to us.
- Faith is the key to experiencing everything God desires to give to us.
- Jesus chose not to do many miracles in Nazareth because they chose not to believe in Him.
- This was not spite or anger – it was Him operating in God’s sovereign will perfectly.
- Our question for this morning ought to be, ‘Am I doing anything that is hindering God doing mighty works in my life, marriage, family, community, or church?’
- Three quick things before David and the team come up for one last praise song.
- First – **Is your faith real?**

- The people of Nazareth knew about Jesus, but they didn't know Him by faith.
- To see God's power move in and through your life, you must believe that Jesus is your Savior and God.
- Second – **Is your faith living and active?**
- The longer we are saved, the staler it can become.
- Do whatever it takes to experience spiritual revival in your life.
- Third – **Is your faith big enough?**
- Jesus couldn't do mighty works in Nazareth.
- A mighty work is something that is humanly impossible.
- Are you believing God for the impossible?
- Do you think there is anything in your life that God doesn't care about or that He cannot handle?
- Believe God for everything, no matter how small or how mighty – He is able (**Ephesians 3:20-21**).

**Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, <sup>21</sup> to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

- God is unlimited in what He is able to do.
- Let's believe that and start living that faith out for the world to see.
- And then we will all experience the abundant life Jesus promised us. -

### **Pray**

- Worship Team plays song.