

## Matthew 13:54-58 - The King's Limitations!

Scriptures:

54 When He had come to His own country, He

Notes:

'His own country' = Nazareth.

'this wisdom and these mighty works' – It was obvious to them that Jesus was doing things no one else could who had grown up where and how He did.

'He taught them...' – this could be part of the reason they despised Him. Many in the synagogue were probably much older than Jesus and had probably played a role in teaching Him when He was young.

They were 'astonished' but their hearts were not moved to faith.

There is the saying, "Familiarity breeds contempt!" This is a dangerous truth that all believers need to be sensitive to. 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.

taught them in their synagogue, so that they

were astonished and said, "Where did this

G1605 – greatly  
amazed.

Man get this wisdom and these

G4678 -

mighty works?

Word study

Scriptures:

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?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

55 Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His

mother called Mary? And His

brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?

Notes:

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). If Jesus says He never knew you it is because you never knew Him.

Jesus had four brothers and at least two sisters born to Mary after Jesus. Scripture is silent on what happened to Mary's husband, Joseph.

Scriptures:

56 And His sisters, are they not all with us?

Notes:

Where then did this *Man* get all these things?"

Scriptures:

57 So they were offended at Him. But Jesus

G4624 -  
σκανδαλιζομαι  
(skandalizomai)  
(scandal)

Notes:

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 had been realized and they despised Him because they knew Him and His family.

said to them, "A prophet is not without honor

G820 – despised.

except in his own country and in his own

house."

Scriptures:

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."

John 5:39-40 - You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

## 58 Now He did not do many mighty works

G4183 -

there because of their unbelief.

G570 – refusing to trust, not believing, lack of faith.

Notes:

Jesus would have performed more miracles, but their lack of faith limited Him. It is difficult to imagine that God is limited in anyway. God is only limited by Himself.

"There is doubtless much that God would prefer to do for us and for society, but He limits His action to function where and when its results are recognized to be of God and not by our achievements." (Augsburger, 1982) page 172

Many believe that it is sin that keeps people out of heaven. Every sin, no matter how many or how wicked they might be, can be forgiven. The one thing that keeps people out of heaven is a lack of faith ([John 14:6](#)).

Jesus also told the religious people that just having Bible knowledge will not get them into heaven ([John 5:39-40](#)).

God would call us to be vigilant against anything that will diminish our relationship with Him.

"There are three great enemies against which God's children should daily pray: pride, worldliness, and a lack of faith. Of these three none is greater than a lack of faith." (Ryle, 1993)

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