

Matthew 13:53-58

Homecoming Day

August 25, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro –

Matthew 2:19-23 - After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Get up, take the young Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." So Joseph returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream he turned aside into the region of Galilee. So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth.

Read 13:53 - Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables that He departed from there (Capernaum). He came to His hometown and taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and this miraculous power? Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? And His sisters, aren't they with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?" So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet isn't without honor except in his own country and in his own house." Now *He didn't do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.*

But the Bible tells us unbelief is a powerful force too.

- **Adam and Eve failed to believe God and the whole world fell into ruin.**
- **Noah warned a wicked world for 120 years that God's judgment was coming-- but only his immediate family believed him and followed him into the ark of safety.**
- **Israel refused to believe God and as a result they wandered in the desert for 40 years.**

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- **Pharaoh refused to believe God's Word and lost his slaves, his son and his army.**
- **Aaron refused to believe God's Word about worship, and made a golden calf, and as a result, 3,000 people lost their lives.**
- **Moses refused to believe God, and it cost him entrance into the Promised Land.**
- **King Nebuchadnezzar in pride, refused to believe God and lost his sanity for a long period of time.**

1. Nazareth's Opportunity

Luke 4:16 - Jesus went to Nazareth, where He'd been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom.

Luke 4:28-30 - All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove Him out of the town, and took Him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. But He walked right through the crowd and went on His way.

- **He went to Nazareth... Told them the truth... They rejected the truth... But He went back**

v.54 - Jesus taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and this miraculous power?"

2. Nazareth's Offense

#1 - Unbelief misses the obvious.

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John 3:2 - "Rabbi, we *know* that you're a teacher who has come *from God*. For no one could perform the signs you're doing if God weren't with him."

John 3:18-19 - Whoever *believes* in Him isn't condemned, but whoever *doesn't believe* stands condemned... This is the verdict: the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

- **They don't want to change**
- **They don't want to give Jesus control of their life**
- **They're perfectly happy doing what they're doing and calling all the shots.**
- **So they don't *want* to believe**

John 12:28-29 - **Jesus said**, "Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "*I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.*" The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken."

- **Some said, "Did you hear that? A voice from heaven said, 'I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.'"**
 - **And others said, "You're crazy! That's just thunder."**
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Dr. Georgia Purdom: is a scientist with a PhD in molecular genetics from Ohio State University. She said: "*Christians have a reasoned faith. A lot of people characterize Christians as having a blind faith, but the evidence clearly supports Creation and the Biblical account of the Flood. Evolutionists on the other hand have to "shoehorn" the evidence in because it isn't*

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consistent and doesn't fit with evolution. So, from a logical, reasoned standpoint Biblical Creation makes sense."

One reason is--some people don't want to believe it.

1 Peter 3:15 - *Always* be prepared to give an answer to *everyone* who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

#2 - Unbelief despises the ordinary.

v.54 "Where did this Man get this wisdom and this miraculous power? Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? And His sisters, aren't they with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?" So they were offended at Him.

A man went to a world famous art gallery and wandered around, glancing at the paintings. "I didn't see anything special," he said to the guard as he left. The guard replied, "Sir, the artwork isn't on trial here--you are! Those are special works of art. The fact that you didn't see anything special in them says more about you than it does about them."

Brene Brown: *"Joy comes to us in ordinary moments. We risk missing out when we get too busy chasing down the extraordinary."*

Dean Koontz: *"If you allow yourself to be enchanted by the beauty to be seen in even ordinary things, then all things prove to be extraordinary."*

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#3 - Unbelief limits the extraordinary.

v.57 - So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet isn't without honor except in his own country and in his own house." Now *He didn't do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.*

- **I have a pitcher of water here. Let's call the water "God's blessings."**
- **If you have a cup and hold it out--*what will I do?***
- **If you have a cup and pull it back--*what do you think I'll do?***

So, the issue isn't my willingness. The issue is your receptivity.

And that was the case in Nazareth.

- **The issue wasn't Jesus' willingness--to bless them, teach them and do miracles for them.**
- **The issue was the people's receptivity.**

Matthew 23:37 - "How many times I wanted to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks, but *you weren't willing.*"

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What is it that you need to believe God for this week?

Bible: "Ask in faith."

God knows what's best and will give you what's best if you're open to receive it.