

Message #51**Matthew 13:53-58**

If you purpose to do God's will and obey God's Word and you purpose to govern your life in a close relationship with Jesus Christ, you can be absolutely certain that you are guaranteed to face rejection.

NO MATTER WHAT JESUS CHRIST DID OR SAID, HE WAS REJECTED EVERYWHERE HE WENT, INCLUDING BY THOSE IN HIS OWN HOMETOWN.

One would think that when Jesus Christ returned to Nazareth, they would have honored Him and had a parade. But instead of honoring Him and worshipping Him, they didn't believe Him and they rejected Him.

PART #1 – Jesus departs the house by the Sea of Galilee. **13:53**

Jesus had been teaching the multitudes by the sea (13:1-2) and then had entered a house, probably in Capernaum (13:36).

There is something that seems to surface from following the life of Christ. Jesus puts up with just so much rejection and opposition and then He leaves.

PART #2 – Jesus goes to Nazareth. **13:54-58**

Now I want you to carefully notice what Christ did when He went to Nazareth—He devoted His ministry to teaching. There is no higher calling, no tougher calling and no holier calling than accurately teaching God's Word.

(Hometown Response #1) - The emotional response. **13:54a**

The people were “astonished.” This word means they were amazed and they were shocked (Smith, p. 141). The slant of this word indicates there was a driving, striking force and power to the teaching of Jesus Christ.

True Biblical teaching should have a ring of real authority to it.

(Hometown Response #2) - The verbal response. **13:54b-56**

(Question #1) - They question His source of wisdom. **13:54b**

Notice how they refer to Him—“this man.”

(Question #2) - They question His source of power. **13:54c**

(Question #3) - They question His identity. **13:55-56**

1) Is not this the carpenter's son? **13:55a**

By the way, this question shows us that Nazareth was such a small town it only had one carpenter and everyone in town knew who it was. The answer to this question is “No, it isn’t the carpenter’s son, this is God’s Son. Joseph was His foster father.

2) Is not His mother called Mary? **13:55b**

The answer to this is yes.

3) Did not Jesus have brothers? **13:55c**

The answer is no, he had half-brothers.

4) Did not Jesus have sisters? **13:56a**

The answer is no, he had half-sisters.

5) Where did Jesus acquire all of this knowledge and power? **13:56b**

(Hometown Response #3) - The rejection response. **13:57**

The word “offense” indicates that He was a stumbling block to them (p. 407). He upset their way of thinking and living. He offended them.

PART #3 – Jesus does not do many miracles because of their unbelief. **13:58**

These people missed great displays of God’s power through their unbelief. God’s great display of power which could have been manifested in Christ’s hometown was missed and stifled by the people’s stone-hearted unbelief.

Stone-hearted unbelief is the big reason why people miss the blessings of God. Dr. Ironside used to say the biggest cause of lack of faith is unjudged sin—people refuse to deal with things in their own lives.