

Title: "Taking Offense at Jesus"

Text: Matthew 13:53-58

Theme: You know Jesus when you don't take offense at Him and when you stand with Him when everyone else is rejecting Him. Do not become "overfamiliar" with Christ because when you do, you lose out on His ministry in your life.

I. Jesus' Teaching Ministry _____ His Former Synagogue Members (54a)

II. The _____ the Synagogue Takes at Jesus (54b-57)

III. Jesus' _____ to the Synagogue Members (57b)

IV. The Result Is a _____ of Ministry (58)

V. Applications

A. Four Possible Ways You Might Come to Take Offense at Christ Jesus

1. You can take offense at Christ if you consider that there is very little _____ you need to know or _____ about your Redeemer.

2. You can take offense at Jesus if you think that you do not need to be _____ of things you already _____ and have been _____.

3. You can begin to take offense at Christ when you become _____ and _____ in attending to the means of grace that God has appointed for your spiritual growth.

4. You can take offense at Christ if you view His _____ and _____ as just one of those things you have to endure while growing up.

B. Jesus did not write you off the first time you _____ Him. He continued _____ you.

Next Week Read: Matthew 14:1-12

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. Where did Jesus go after He had finished speaking the parables about the Kingdom (vv. 53-54a)?
2. What was the name of Jesus' hometown?
3. What did Jesus do when He went back to His hometown (v. 54a)?
4. What was the initial reaction of the people who heard Jesus speak (v. 54b)?
5. What question did they ask that indicates why they were having a problem with what they were hearing from Jesus (v. 54b)?
6. What indicates that these people were very well acquainted with Jesus (vv. 55-56a)?
7. What happened after this initial reaction (v. 57a)?
8. How did Jesus reply to the way these people responded to Him (v. 57b)?
9. What does the proverb that Jesus quoted mean?
10. What did Jesus specifically not do in His hometown? Why? (v. 58)?
11. Was Jesus unable to perform many miracles in His hometown because the unbelief of townspeople made Him "unable" to do them? Why or why not?
12. If we take the word "familiar" to mean possessing a basic or surface knowledge of something, how is it possible to be too familiar with Jesus so that we come to take offense at Him?
13. What does it mean to "know" Jesus?
14. Have you ever been offended at Jesus? When? Why?
15. How might you know if you are taking offense at Christ?
16. What truths about Christ might be helpful for you to remember right now?
17. What is the *communicatio idiomatum*? How might this help you break out of any "over familiarity" with Jesus to know and love Him more?

For a quick primer on the *communicatio*, see:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/theological-primer-the-extra-calvinisticum/>

For a video explanation, see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixd2XrugVHE> (4:27 long)

Or, ask the officer trainees. They will tell you. (Their initials are: DB, RH, CK, LM, RS, and EW.)]

18. How can Christian parents assist their covenant children in not becoming "too familiar" with Jesus?
19. How was God's grace evident in this account?
20. How have you experienced Christ not "writing you off" but seeking and restoring you after you had spurned Him?