

MYSTERY & MAJESTY

– 6 –

Close Enough to Miss

All scriptures are in the English Standard Version (ESV) unless indicated otherwise

Familiarity is a big theme within this passage

Matthew 13:53 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there,

- The parables were told because people can see without perceiving and hear without understanding.
- The Sower is about the condition of the heart.
- The Wheat and Weeds is about the evil and the proclamation of the gospel.
- The mustard seed and leaven is about kingdom growth.
- The Treasure and Pearl is about valuing Jesus and the kingdom above all else.

- The dragnet is about the lost.

Matthew 13:54 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?”

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
- His family went to Egypt because of the threat against His life.
- They later settled in Nazareth.
- He ministered out of Capernaum and into the surrounding areas.

Nazareth:

- was not a major political center, religious center, or famous city.
- Estimates suggest about 400 hundred people lived there.
- Nazareth was so obscure that when Philip tells Nathaniel/Bartholomew they found the messiah he asks in John 1 “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

- Jesus taught in the synagogue.
- Attending the synagogue was part of Jesus' regular pattern.
- In the synagogue, people: Read Scripture, teach Scripture, Worship God, prayer, instruction for children.
- The people recognize two things: His wisdom & His mighty works.
- They cannot deny that something extraordinary is happening.
- Evidence does not automatically produce belief.

Matthew 13:55-56 55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?

- They do not deny His teaching.
- They do not deny the reports of mighty works.
- They dismiss Him because His origin is too ordinary.
- Small town, everyone talks.

- Jesus may have gone home because at the end of chapter 12 his family came looking for him because they were embarrassed by his actions.
- They didn't believe either.
- James later wrote the New Testament letter of James.
- Jude/Judas later wrote the New Testament letter of Jude.
- Familiarity is not faith.

Matthew 13:57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.”

- This was not a failure on Jesus' part but a rejection on their part.
- Why were they offended? Familiarity.

Matthew 13:58 And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

- It does not mean Jesus suddenly lost power, human faith generates miracles, or that Jesus tried and failed.

- Unbelief is powerful
- Belief is powerful
- Is there anything too difficult for God?