

# Seeing But **Not** Believing...



Would You Recognise  
“Jesus of Nazareth”  
For Who He Is...

**If He Stood In Front of You ?**

**1-**What criteria would you use?

**2-** How confident would you be that your assessment would be correct?

*There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him.*

Isaiah 52:3 NLT

# Seeing But **Not** Believing

**Matthew 13: 53-58**

# Matthew 13

53. When Jesus had finished telling these stories and illustrations, he left that part of the country.
54. He returned to Nazareth, his hometown. When he taught there in the synagogue, everyone was amazed and said, “Where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles?”
55. Then they scoffed, “He’s just the carpenter’s son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas.
56. All his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all these things?”

57. And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. Then Jesus told them,  
*“A prophet is honoured everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family.”*
58. And so he did only a few miracles there because of their unbelief.

**Why is this passage important to us ?**

## This is the community **where Jesus...**

- ❖ Grew as a young child to manhood
- ❖ Spend **most** of earthly life living among them
- ❖ Worshiped and attended regularly
- ❖ Received his religious instruction
- ❖ Was rejected because of their *bias /contempt*

# Seeing But **Not** Believing

Location

53. He returned to Nazareth, his hometown. When he taught there in the **synagogue**, everyone was amazed and said, “*Where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles?*”
54. **Then** they scoffed, “**He’s just** the carpenter’s son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas.
- **Arrogances** we think “*we know*” our opinion is what really matters
  - **Unwillingness** to think in the spiritual

Unbelief

## Seeing But **Not** Believing

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**And they were deeply offended  
and refused to believe in him. v57**

- You expect us to believe that...?
- Don't insult our intelligence
- We've never heard such nonsense
- We don't believe a word you say
- Don't forget we know who you really are
- You have fooled others but you're not fooling us

**And they were deeply offended  
and refused to believe in him**

**Matt 13 v57**



**Luke 4:23-24 (NLT)**

Then he said, “You will undoubtedly quote me this proverb: ‘Physician, heal yourself’—meaning, ‘Do miracles here in your hometown like those you did in Capernaum.’<sup>24</sup> But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown.

And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in him **Matt 13 v57**



- **Luke 4:23-24 (NLT)**
- Then he said, “You will undoubtedly quote me this proverb: ‘Physician, heal yourself’—meaning, ‘Do miracles here in your hometown like those you did in Capernaum.’
- <sup>24</sup> But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown.

<sup>25</sup> “Certainly there were many needy widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the heavens were closed for three and a half years, and a severe famine devastated the land.

<sup>26</sup> Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them. He was sent instead to a foreigner—a widow of Zarephath in the land of Sidon.

<sup>27</sup> And many in Israel had leprosy in the time of the prophet Elisha, but the only one healed was Naaman, a Syrian.”

<sup>28</sup> When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious.

<sup>29</sup> Jumping up, they mobbed him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff,  
<sup>30</sup> but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way.

**And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in him v57**

**They allowed ...**

- 1. Human reasoning, human logic**, blind them from the truth
- 2. Personal bias, prejudices and contempt to...** stop them from accepting the truth
- 3. Their Preconceived Ideas** lead them to... **outright rejection / unbelief**

# Offended By Jesus ?

*What if Jesus  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
shows up in a manner....*

- that's **offensive** in your eyes?
- that's **challenges** your understand of how He really works and reveals himself ?

# Seeing But **Not** Believing

57. Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honoured everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family.”
58. And so he did only a few miracles there because of their **unbelief**.

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

Hebrews 3: 15

# Seeing But **Not** Believing

## Applications

- **Seeing** does not guarantee believing
- **Unbelief** is not confined to the secular world it can be found in deeply religious congregations
- **Attitudes** like *being dismissive, bias, prejudice, showing contempt* may be masking **unbelief**
- **Unbelief** restricts one from receiving what Jesus is willing to do /give

# Seeing But **Not** Believing

## Applications

- It's possible to believe **IN** God but **NOT** believe God

Hebrews 3:12 (NIV)

*See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.*

