

Gospel of Matthew

13:52-58

Only In His Own House



“A prophet... in his own home”

“Familiarity breeds contempt”. It is a common expression today. It means that when someone becomes very familiar to us – we spend a lot of time with them, we stop appreciating them and become unimaginative regarding their potential!

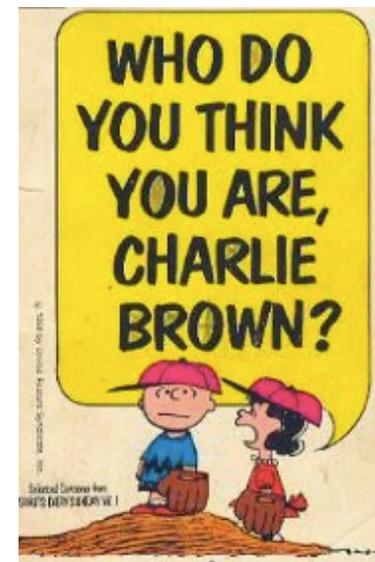
We are shocked when they do something beyond what we thought possible.

So Jesus demonstrates in our text that this phenomena was an irritant to Him.



Jesus was not behaving as like a Messiah should behave. He appeared to not be interested in building His political power base. That is what the Messiah was expected to do. But Jesus wasn't being political at all. He was just moving around the Galilean countryside ministering to mostly poor and diseased people accompanied by a ragtag group of disciples, both men and women. He was making big “boasts”, but in was not backing it up with political moves -- just miracles – and not even that in His home town. They really thought He had gone out of His mind or had become possessed!

[Mark 3:20,21]



You would think that among the people that knew Him best He would be the most motivated to impress. But Jesus was not about impressing for His own ego's sake, but only for the sake of the souls of His listeners. They needed Him! On His part, He wished to gather them to Himself, but did not need them, and certainly not if they were unwilling to give Him a fair chance to prove Himself to them.



First church - It was a weird group dynamic, I have to say. They didn't "get" my sermons and one prominent lady in the group was forever criticizing them; none seemed to think that my attempts at humor were the least bit funny; and they didn't appreciate Karen's efforts either. No one ever came and gave us a pat on the back, or a "well done", or even a "thank you". I could not win them over!



Filling pulpits on weekends – usually for churches that were without pastors - but a different church every week. I was burned out and was having a hard time creating new sermons, so I recycled my old ones – the exact same ones I had preached to my first church. But this time around the people of these other churches were giving me great feedback! They treated us with respect, with kindness, and listened intensely! Our first church had taught us we were nothing, but these other churches taught us we were *not* nothing. Maybe we weren't something, but neither were we nothing!



Jesus could have no impact at home. It's weird, because He was an impressive speaker, but He could not get through to them! They would not let Him! They had their idea of Him and would not let it go. Sometimes I think that lady in my first church had it right - I'm not a good preacher. But I would clarify that I am especially ineffective to people that are not receptive. It's all in the receptivity!



Every Sunday I try to wake you up, shake you out of your natural decent into spiritual lethargy, but I fight your skepticism. I know it! I can feel it! Not everyone, of course. But too many! I know you think I'm expected to say what I say, so it's no big deal, and you don't have to take it seriously. I've been doing this for years so you're used to it. It just falls on deaf ears!



I don't really care - certainly not for my own sake. But I grieve for *that* person or persons whoever they may be. They are lost in their own issues with no means of escape. They are driven by evils that I cannot imagine – usually from their own past, that has little to do with me. I know I have always tried to do the right thing by everyone even when it is hard - so my conscience is clear. But I just want people to listen to God – to be substantially changed by His Spirit and for everyone to increasingly become a part of His purposes! **[2 Corinthians 3:2,3]**



There is nothing unorthodox or unbiblical about what I am saying when I contend for your souls on Sunday morning! So why not let go; give in; surrender – not to me, but to Jesus! Don't go crazy over what some preacher on the radio said. You don't know them. But you know me! Let me speak for God into your life! I do not seek this privilege for myself but for the Lord Jesus

