

Trust In Jesus (Matt 13:53-58; 14:22-33)

1. In Matthew 13:53-58, why were people offended in Jesus' home town of Nazareth? A good Bible study method is to see if an account is recorded elsewhere that might provide some clues, and this particular account is also recorded in Luke 4. What do you observe in both Matthew 13:53-58 and Luke 4:20-30 that reveals the answer?

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. He began by saying to them, "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled."

They were all speaking well of him and were amazed by the gracious words that came from his mouth; yet they said, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

Then he said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to me: 'Doctor, heal yourself. What we've heard that took place in Capernaum, do here in your hometown also.'"

He also said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. But I say to you, there were certainly many widows in Israel in Elijah's days, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months while a great famine came over all the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them except a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. And in the prophet Elisha's time, there were many in Israel who had leprosy, and yet not one of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

When they heard this, everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They got up, drove him out of town, and brought him to the edge of the hill that their town was built on, intending to hurl him over the cliff. But he passed right through the crowd and went on his way. (Luke 4:20-30, CSB)

2. In Matthew 14:22-33, when Simon cries out, Jesus criticizes him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" What is trust based on?

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Teacher Notes

Video Abstract (Author: Max7.org): The people in his home town expected Jesus to follow in his father's footsteps as a carpenter. They cannot question his wisdom and miracles, but refuse to accept who Jesus claims to be. Peter, on the other hand, has enough faith in Jesus to get out of the boat and walk on the water to him, but his faith in Jesus could not withstand a storm. It's not until Jesus saves Peter that the disciples finally realize that Jesus does follow in his Father's footsteps - God himself! - and that we can trust in Jesus and what he says. Will you trust Jesus today?

Dramatically read the two accounts and help the student visualize what is happening:

When Jesus had finished these parables, he left there. He went to his hometown and began to teach them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother called Mary, and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, aren't they all with us? So where does he get all these things?" And they were offended by him.

Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his household." And he did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief. (Matt 13:53-58, CSB)

[Context: Jesus receives the news that John the Baptist was executed]

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After dismissing the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. Well into the night, he was there alone. Meanwhile, the boat was already some distance from land, battered by the waves, because the wind was against them. Jesus came toward them walking on the sea very early in the morning. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and they cried out in fear.

Immediately Jesus spoke to them. "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

"Lord, if it's you," Peter answered him, "command me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come."

And climbing out of the boat, Peter started walking on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those in the boat worshiped him and said, "Truly you are the Son of God." (Matt 14:22-33, CSB)

Show the video.

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Help the student with his observation. As they watched Him grow up, what did the Nazarenes know Jesus as?

Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't this Joseph's son?
Isn't his mother called Mary, and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas?
And his sisters, aren't they all with us?

Ask the student, who was Jesus? (To provide a hint to the student, read John 1:32-34 - And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and he rested on him. I didn't know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The one you see the Spirit descending and resting on—he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.")

The key takeaway for the student is recognizing that the people of Nazareth disregarded the evidence that Jesus was the Messiah: a) disregarded the testimony of miraculous works elsewhere, and b) disregarded His wisdom of God's word.

Ask the student, who did Jesus heal? (To provide a hint to the student, read Matthew 9:1-2 - So he got into a boat, crossed over, and came to his own town. Just then some men brought to him a paralytic lying on a stretcher. Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, "Have courage, son, your sins are forgiven.")

Jesus miraculously healed those who had faith in Him as the Messiah. But most people in Nazareth saw Jesus as the son of a carpenter, not as the Messiah, and were offended when He didn't heal them.

2. In Matthew 14:22-33, when Simon cries out, Jesus criticizes him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" What is trust based on?

To help the student understand what trust is based on, ask for a volunteer.

- a) The class is tasked with a choice. Who will they trust: the volunteer or the teacher?
- b) The volunteer is asked to stand up and is asked the question, "if you let go of an apple 3' off the ground, which way will it go?"
- c) The teacher insists that the apple will go up not down. And the teacher displays his credentials (i.e. scientist, graduated from famous university, best teacher, etc.)
- d) why did the class trust the volunteer?

Trust is based on the facts: the reality of what they saw with their eyes (i.e. the apple falls down), the character of a person, etc.

How does this relate to Simon Peter?

Simon did not trust the reality of the Messiah's love. When Jesus commanded him to come, He would keep him safe.