

Uprooting Unbelief

Matthew 13:53-58 - NCBC, July 12, 2020

Main Point: **Unbelief separates you from eternal life (John 3:18).**

- **RESULT:** Unbelief misses God's opportunity for salvation (53, 58)
 - Unbelief hardens your heart (Acts 19:9)
 - Unbelief defiles your mind (Titus 1:15)
 - Unbelief enslaves your desires (John 5:40)
- **REACTION:** Unbelief suppresses God's obvious truth (54)
 - Unbelief rejects the worship of God (Romans 1:21)
 - Unbelief rejects the wisdom of God (Romans 1:25)
 - Unbelief rejects the works of God (Romans 1:28)
- **REASON:** Unbelief despises God's ordinary means (55-56)
 - Unbelief loves irrelevant objections (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
 - Unbelief loves self-glory (2 Timothy 3:2-4)
 - Unbelief loves human approval (John 5:42-44)
- **ROOT:** Unbelief takes offense at God's glory (57)
 - Unbelief lives by my own works & wisdom (Romans 10:3-4)
 - Unbelief lives apart from God's grace (Hebrews 3:12, 19)
 - Unbelief lives for my own glory (John 5:43)

Application: **Humble yourself and believe that joyful life is found in Jesus!**

- **REPENT:** Faith glorifies God without concern for self-glory (Rom 4:19-21)
- **RECEIVE:** Faith loves God and delights in His grace (1 Peter 1:8-9)

Opening Announcements:

- **Remember to visit mynCBC.org** and follow our NCBC Facebook page to stay informed on all ministry/event updates during this season of careful regathering.
- **Sunday, July 26th, at 9:30am** everyone is invited to a special training on how to reach farther through Community Outreach. Elder Kyle Krall will be leading an interactive hour of training where each attendee will learn to quickly share the Gospel with a simple drawing and compelling explanation. Don't miss this!

<<Crown Him with Many Crowns>>



Good morning church! Jesus reigns and rules over all. May God's Spirit help us to acknowledge this truth and submit to His glorious Lordship over us this morning.

Today our Scripture is the last paragraph of **Matthew chapter 13**. So please open your paper or digital Bible and prepare to read from **Matthew 13:53-58**.

If you're joining us online, we are so thankful to worship with you! Please notice the links alongside this livestream offer fill-in-the-blank sermon notes, the preaching manuscript, and children's coloring pages to

assist your worship. At any time you may pause this video, print those files, and then rejoin our worship with those helpful notes in front of you.

You will notice that today's outline has lots of fill-in-the-blanks, and many different Scripture references. But no syllabus shock needed! We will not be taking time in this sermon to study each of the Scriptures listed. However, they are provided for your cross-reference and further study after the sermon.

After all, I trust we all know that listening to sermons alone is not sufficient for your spiritual life. The preaching of the Gospel – as powerful and important as it is – is not enough to sustain spiritual life.

God created you and I to grow spiritually in the context of community. So while the preaching of God's Word brings life¹ and faith,² it is the exhortation and encouragement and prayers of spiritual friends that causes our faith to persevere³ and grow⁴ through the most difficult seasons of life.



So today we are inviting everyone to join one of our Life Groups. If you aren't yet connected to a small group of Christians who gather on a regular basis to connect, serve, pray, and grow together... you are forfeiting some of the blessings God intends for you to enjoy as part of His church.

Let me suggest 5 reasons why just listening to sermons isn't enough for your spiritual growth:

First, sermons are not a dialogue, nor should they be. **Sermons don't allow you to ask questions**, and yet getting your questions answered is a key to understanding. Often Jesus would take His disciples aside after a sermon and invite their questions to help them grow deeper in spiritual understanding.⁵

Second, preaching alone is insufficient for your growth since **hearing is only the first-half of obedience**. When you are listening to a sermon in a large group, it's far too easy to listen passively. To neglect personal

¹ John 12:50

² Romans 10:17

³ Hebrews 3:12-13

⁴ Ephesians 4:16

⁵ I.e. Matthew 13:10, 36

application. To evade or dismiss the Spirit's conviction or call. But God calls us to *be doers of the Word*, and not just hearers only.⁶ When spiritual friends are processing our redemptive crises alongside us, it motivates us to act upon what God is showing us.

Third, preaching is insufficient since **secrecy is not a biblical value**. **1 John 1:7** calls all Christians to *walk in the light* with one another – to genuinely know and be known. God desires for you to have spiritual friends to whom you can confess your sins and pray for one another.⁷ Sitting in the same room and listening to the same sermon together is not powerful enough to destroy Satan's lies about your darkest secrets.⁸ Freedom comes through personal confession, compassionate accountability, and sharing Christ together.

Fourth, preaching alone is insufficient for spiritual growth since **your perseverance in Christ is a community project**. When we're part of a large crowd, our flesh likes to hide and avoid anything that makes us uncomfortable. But Scripture teaches we can't trust our self-perception.⁹ **Hebrews 3:12-13** calls us to invite spiritual friends to help us see our own soul accurately, so we would not be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Fifth, preaching alone is not enough for your soul since, **Christianity is about union with Jesus' life, not just agreement with Jesus' teaching**. For us to truly glorify God together, we need more than just doctrinal soundness. All of us need to grow deeper in the humble dependence of faith, the relational wholeness of love,

⁶ James 1:22-24

⁷ James 5:16

⁸ John 3:19-21; 8:31

and the missional faithfulness of witness. To be a Christian is to no longer live for yourself,¹⁰ but to have Christ living in and through you!¹¹ So here in our church family, Life Groups are designed to help you grow not just your head, but also your heart, and your hands, and your home into the likeness of Jesus Himself.

There's more biblical reasons why preaching alone is insufficient for your spiritual growth. But hopefully these five reasons will help us to better understand why joining a life group is good and necessary for your soul.

The next several weeks we are going to be inviting you to sign up for a life group. Please connect and pursue real spiritual friendship with us for the glory of God!

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW				
1-3 Presentation of the King				
4-7 Proclamation of the King <i>Sermon on the Mount (5-7)</i>	8-10 Power of the King <i>Sending out the 12 Apostles (10)</i>	11-13 Rejection of the King <i>Kingdom Parables (13)</i>	14-20 Priorities of the King <i>Topsy-Turvy Values (18)</i>	21-25 Progress of the King <i>Olivet Discourse (24-25)</i>
Kingdom offered to Israel			Kingdom offered to all Nations	
26-28 Passion & Proof of the King				

Now this morning our Bibles are open to the last paragraph of **Matthew 13**, as we conclude this middle section of Matthew' Gospel. Remember the main body of Matthew's Gospel is organized topically – not chronologically – into five different sections. **Chapters 11-13** reveal Israel's

⁹ Jeremiah 17:9

¹⁰ Luke 9:23-24; 2 Corinthians 5:15

¹¹ Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:3

rejection of Jesus as their king. And **verses 53-58** of **chapter 13** specifically show us how Jesus is even rejected by those who grew up with him and knew him best. Here Jesus is again rejected by the people of Nazareth – his own hometown.



What happened to Jesus in Nazareth offers a compelling case study on the anatomy of unbelief. So get ready for the distinct smell of formaldehyde as we're headed into the lab to dissect the heart of unbelief.

I'm praying for God's Spirit to uproot unbelief today as we uncover the layers of hometown hatred in **Matthew 13, verses 53-58**. Please stand for the public reading of God's Word as I read from **Matthew 13 verse 53**, in the ESV:

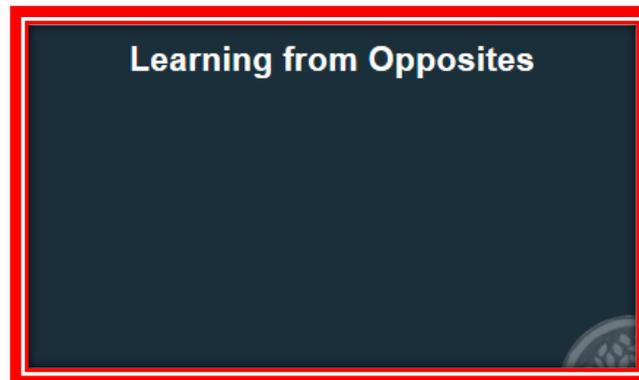
⁵³ And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, ⁵⁴ and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? ⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? 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?" 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." ⁵⁸ And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

This is God's Word.

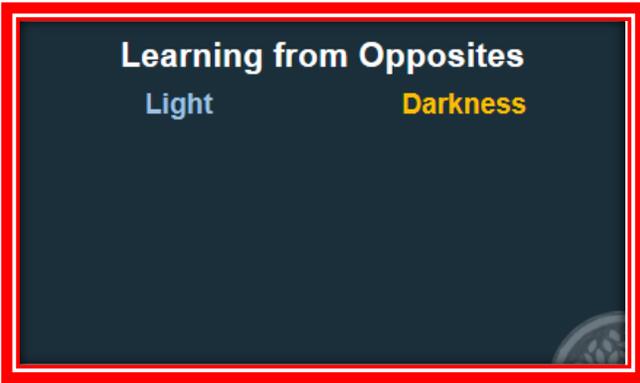
Let's Pray Together.

As we prepare to dissect the stubborn root of unbelief, it's important we clearly define our terms. Sometimes we can learn more about a term's meaning by identifying its opposite.

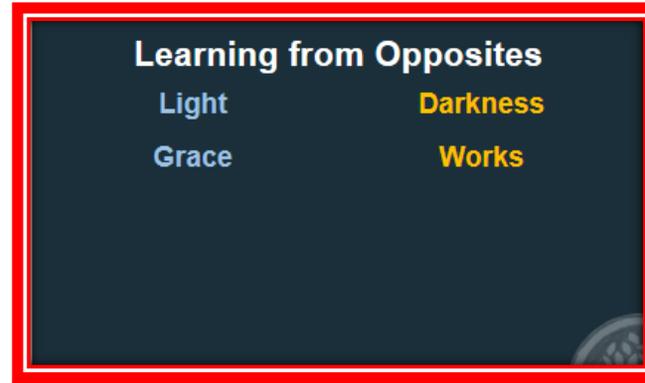


So let's play a brief game of opposites. Kids – help your parents on this! Everyone's welcome to yell out the answers together.

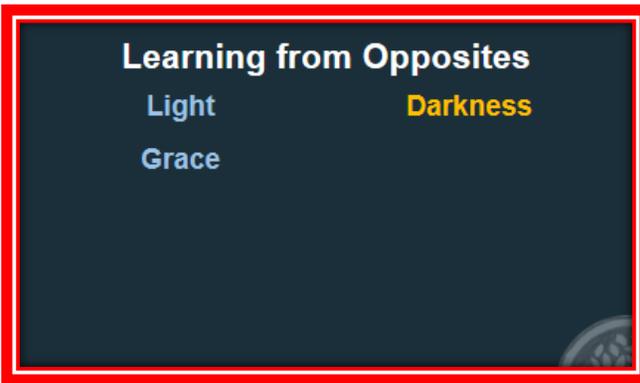
Here's how this works.



I'll give you the blue word, like "light," and you respond with the opposite word like "darkness." Ready?



Works. Correct. Good job.



Ok. What's the opposite of "grace?" Christians are saved from God's wrath by grace, not by...



Now what is the opposite of sin? Well, **Romans 3:23** defines sin as any belief or action that falls short of the glory of God.

Learning from Opposites	
Light	Darkness
Grace	Works
Sin	God's Glory (Righteousness)

So God's glory is the opposite of sin. Let's do one more:

Learning from Opposites	
Light	Darkness
Grace	Works
Sin	God's Glory (Righteousness)
Unbelief	Saving Faith (Belief in Jesus)

Right! Belief in Jesus. Saving faith!

Learning from Opposites	
Light	Darkness
Grace	Works
Sin	God's Glory (Righteousness)
Unbelief	

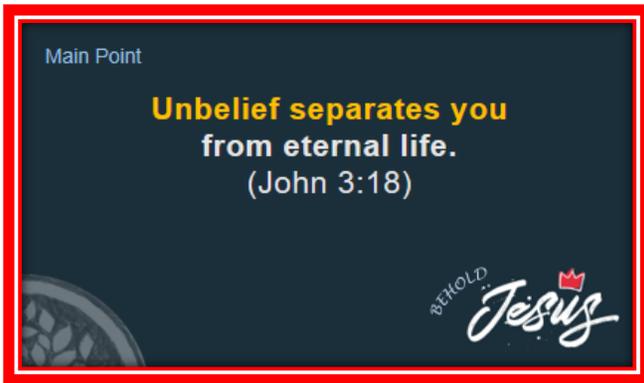
Unbelief. What is the biblical opposite to unbelief?

And this is important because when we talk about unbelief we're not talking about doubt. Doubt is the experience of every Christian who has seasons of wrestling with God's promises and God's goodness.¹²

Unbelief is the opposite of saving faith. Unbelief is the conscious and committed rejection of Jesus as King in your life. Unbelief is a settled refusal to believe that Jesus is God who can forgive your sins, give you a new nature, and guarantee your eternal dwelling forever in the presence of God Himself.

Unbelief is a terminal kind of sin. Unbelief is spiritually fatal. Unbelief is the leprosy of the human soul.

¹² C.f. the sermon entitled "Seeing Through Doubt" on Matthew 11:1-19
Page 6a of 18

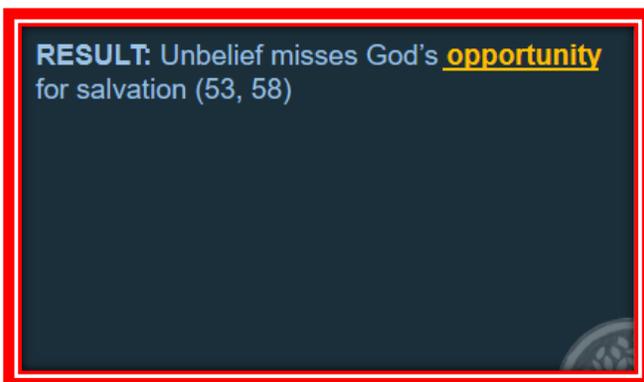


Unbelief separates you from eternal life. It's that serious. There's no way for you to enter heaven after you die if the stubborn root of unbelief is controlling your life.

Jesus said it this way in **John 3, verse 18**:

Whoever believes in [Jesus] is not condemned, but however does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Dear friend – unbelief will cost you dearly. Unbelief will keep you from God. And just like Jesus' neighbors,



Unbelief will **RESULT** in missing God's opportunity for your salvation.

Now let's quickly set the context for the hometown hatred in **Matthew 13**. Jesus left Capernaum in **verse 53** and arrived to Nazareth in **verse 54**.



If Jesus would have used Google Maps, this walk of approximately 28 miles to the southwest would have taken about 10 hours.

So don't miss the illustration of how unbelief separates you from eternal life in **verse 53**. Capernaum was Jesus'

home-base for the last year or more.¹³ This small town on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee had served as the center of Jesus' public teaching and healing ministry.

But even Jesus' most powerful signs and sermons were rejected by the Galileans, and back in **chapter 11 verse 23** Jesus had cursed Capernaum saying,

You Capernaum...will be brought down to Hades. If the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.

The people of Capernaum had witnessed miracle after miracle. Heard sermon after sermon. And still they refused to believe. And so after Jesus started to use parables to conceal further truths about His kingdom from their unbelieving hearts, **verse 53** says Jesus sealed their doom by leaving them.

Never again would Jesus return to offer salvation to the people of Capernaum.



Their unbelief had missed God's opportunity for them to be saved.

Have you ever wondered why rational, educated, friendly people refuse to believe in Jesus? What is going on inside them that results in such an unnecessary and destructive missed opportunity?

As we peel back the layers of unbelief, we first discover that the sin of unbelief results in rejecting Jesus not because of a lack of evidence, but because of an increasing stubbornness of the will against the evidence.

You might write this down:

¹³ Matthew 4:13, 8:5

RESULT: Unbelief misses God's opportunity for salvation (53, 58)

- Unbelief **hardens** your heart (Acts 19:9)
- Unbelief **defiles** your mind (Titus 1:15)
- Unbelief **enslaves** your desires (John 5:40)

Unbelief hardens your heart, Acts 19:9.¹⁴ Unbelief defiles your mind, Titus 1:15. Unbelief darkens the heart,¹⁵ disobeys God's Word,¹⁶ and clings stubbornly to lies which blind us from being able to see true reality.¹⁷

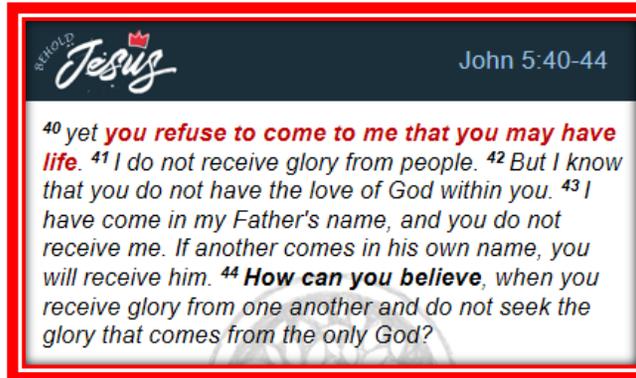
Remember, the Bible teaches that people do what they do because they want what they want.¹⁸

So here's the result of the sin of unbelief: **Unbelief enslaves your desires** so that no matter how obvious the evidence for the goodness and greatness of Jesus, your soul refuses to want to believe that He is your rightful King.

¹⁴ C.f. Mark 16:14

¹⁵ Romans 1:21, 28b

¹⁶ 1 Peter 2:8, 4:17



In **John chapter 5 verse 40**, Jesus tells the Jews,

You refuse to come to me that you may have life.

Jesus offers you eternal life! Forgiveness! Peace! But unbelief enslaves your desires so you are convinced that you don't want Jesus!

The sin of unbelief increasingly hardens the will against God's mercy and grace. And the result is that Jesus leaves you, removing your opportunity for eternal life with God.

Now as we follow Jesus to Nazareth in **verse 54**, we can peel back another layer of the root of unbelief. For the road to condemnation is characterized by:

¹⁷ Romans 1:25; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 2 Timothy 2:26

¹⁸ James 4:1-3ff

REACTION: Unbelief suppresses God's obvious truth (54)

Unbelieving REACTIONS which continually suppress God's obvious truth.

In **verse 54**, Jesus enters the synagogue in Nazareth and preaches. Matthew doesn't tell us what Jesus said this time. He just focuses on everyone's reaction.

Can't you just imagine the scene? There's Jesus' mom and siblings over there. And while the God of all wisdom is teaching, cute little old ladies must have smiled at Mary and given her a thumbs up. Old men must have smiled and nodded...this was real entertainment for the sleepy hamlet of Nazareth. After all, it's not every day one of Nazareth's boys comes home and can impress everyone with his wisdom and works.

Yet while the Nazarenes were clearly impressed and entertained, they were also nervously stirred up by Jesus' wisdom.¹⁹ For there was no way to humanly explain the source of Jesus' supernatural wisdom and miracles.

¹⁹ The word for "astonished" in verse 54 literally means, "made nervous with fear, terrified, agitated with fear"

And they hadn't forgotten what happened the last time Jesus visited their synagogue.

Luke 4 records how a year earlier Jesus had opened the scroll to **Isaiah 61**, read the Messiah's Mission Statement, and then sat down and told them that today this prophecy was fulfilled in their midst.²⁰

When they started to ask Jesus perform miracles in Nazareth just like He did in Capernaum, Jesus said their familiarity with Him had only bred contempt.²¹ Then He used the example of Elijah's ministry to both a Gentile widow and a Gentile leper named Naaman to teach that God cared more for believing Gentiles than He ever did for unbelieving Jews!

This enraged Nazareth so much they tried to murder Jesus by throwing him off a cliff! But Jesus had escaped, and now He was back a year later, teaching again. And they kept asking themselves,

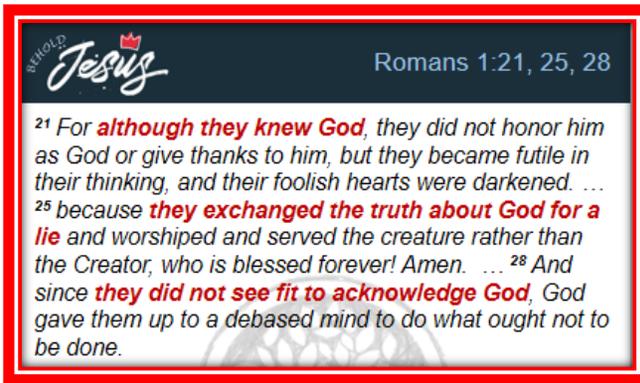
Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?

Now of course, the answer to this question was obvious. His wisdom and His works were from God. Because Jesus was actually who He claimed to be – the long-awaited Messiah – God Himself in human flesh!

But unbelief always reacts to the truth by trying to suppress it. Unbelief is like holding a beach ball under water...suppressing what is obvious, while claiming it is not there at all.

²⁰ Luke 4:16-30

²¹ Luke 4:24



We see this truth clearly in **Romans chapter 1**.

Verse 21, *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him...*

Verse 25, *they exchanged the truth about God for lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator...*

Verse 28, *They did not see fit to acknowledge God...*

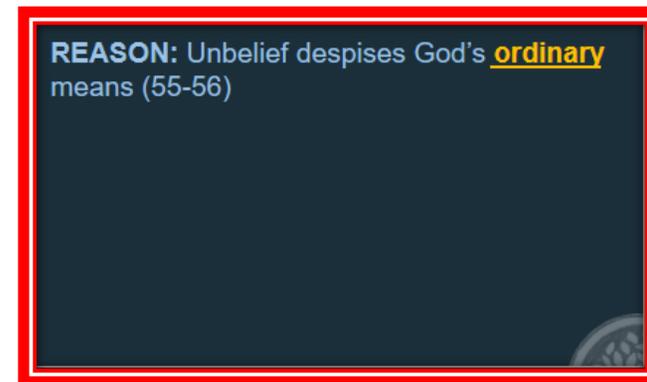
Here's the point:



Unbelief rejects the worship of God, the wisdom of God, and the works of God.

It doesn't matter how powerful the miracle, or how profound the argument... unbelief refuses to accept the obvious truth that Jesus is the Creator God who deserves to be worshipped as our King.

The result of unbelief is eternal condemnation. The reaction of unbelief to obvious truth is always to suppress it by rejecting Jesus, and **verses 55-56** help us understand why unbelief rejects Jesus.



The **REASON** is because unbelief despises God's ordinary means. Unbelief is proud, and although it loves to be entertained by the supernatural, unbelief despises everything that is humble.

If you've ever had honest spiritual conversations with unbelievers you know that,

REASON: Unbelief despises God's ordinary means (55-56)

- Unbelief loves irrelevant objections (1 Timothy 6:20-21)

Unbelief loves irrelevant objections.

The more objections you answer, the more objections unbelievers have. Because remember, they aren't refusing to believe in Jesus for a lack of evidence. They are refusing to believe for a lack of desire.

In **verses 55-56**, we see some of these questions which the Nazarenes used to justify their unbelief:

Is not this the carpenter's son? Don't you remember that Joseph married a pregnant woman? Obviously Jesus can't be the Messiah. After all, the Messiah will come from a King! Not a common day-laborer!

Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us?

Jesus was so ordinary...and He came from such a humble family.²² Their familiarity with Jesus and His earthly family bred nothing but contempt for Jesus.

By the way, these verses effectively debunk the teaching that Mary was a perpetual virgin after giving birth to Jesus. If this teaching is part of your religious background, I'd recommend you check out the related article listed on the back of your notes page this morning. Mary, and Joseph, and his step-brothers and sisters were all very common, sinful, and "normal."

But unbelief despises what is ordinary and humble since unbelief is fundamentally proud.

REASON: Unbelief despises God's ordinary means (55-56)

- Unbelief loves irrelevant objections (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Unbelief loves self-glory (2 Timothy 3:2-4)

Unbelief loves self. Unbelief lives to glorify and worship self. In fact, if you keep digging around the root of stubborn unbelief, you will find the ultimate reason unbelief hates everything humble is that,

²² C.f. Philippians 2:7

REASON: Unbelief despises God's ordinary means (55-56)

- Unbelief loves irrelevant objections (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Unbelief loves self-glory (2 Timothy 3:2-4)
- Unbelief loves human approval (John 5:42-44)

Unbelief loves human approval.

Human hearts refuse to believe Jesus because fundamentally, human hearts love human praise.

Jesus taught this clearly back in,

Jesus John 5:40-44

40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. 41 I do not receive glory from people. 42 But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

John chapter 5, verse 44:

How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

How can you believe? Meaning... it's impossible for you to believe in Jesus while you love human approval. Whenever you live for the praise of other people, you will despise everything that is humble and common about Jesus, and you will object to any King who came as a suffering servant. It is your love affair with human approval that motivates you to suppress the obvious truth that Jesus is the perfect God-man who deserves your worship and your witness today.

REASON: Unbelief despises God's ordinary means (55-56)

- Unbelief loves irrelevant objections (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Unbelief loves self-glory (2 Timothy 3:2-4)
- Unbelief loves human approval (John 5:42-44)

You see there's nothing glamorous or flashy about the cross. There's nothing about following a suffering Savior that will get you praise and accolades from this world.

Pride at its core, is a craving lust for human praise. And so now we're starting to uproot the source of stubborn unbelief, aren't we?

ROOT: Unbelief takes offense at God's glory (57)

For the **ROOT** of Unbelief is offense at God's glory.

Verse 57 says the hometown crowd *took offense at him*. Literally, they were “tripped up” or “scandalized” by Jesus and His obvious wisdom and works from God.

Jesus didn't check all their proud boxes. He hadn't graduated from the right seminary. His family was not well-enough respected. His entourage was not elite enough. And if you boiled it all down... trusting in Jesus was not going to help them add to their own fame and reputation in the eyes of other people.

Listen carefully – the deepest root of unbelief is a competitive spirit that refuses to be used for God's glory, but demands to use God for my own glory.

ROOT: Unbelief takes offense at God's glory (57)

- Unbelief lives by my own works & wisdom (Romans 10:3-4)
- Unbelief lives apart from God's grace (Hebrews 3:12, 19)
- Unbelief lives for my own glory (John 5:43)

And so, a hard life of unbelief rejects Jesus' words and works and instead lives according to my own works & wisdom.

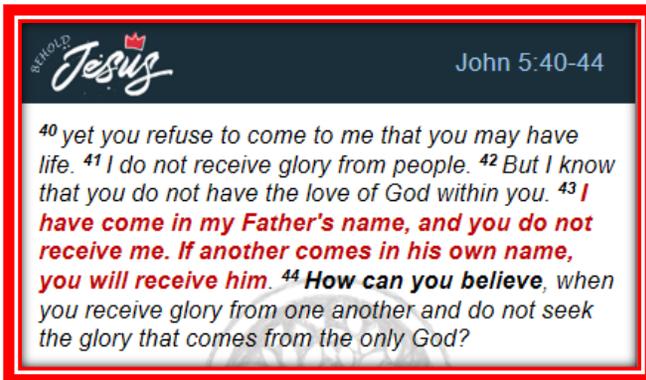
Unbelief convinces me that I'm righteous enough. Unbelief judges itself by its own self-made law, which conveniently changes whenever it can improve my own glory and praise above others.

In its lying deception, unbelief actually believes I know better than God where to find joy.²³ The hard heart of unbelief actually believes living for human approval will bring me more joy than living for the glory of God.

Unbelief lives apart from God's grace. In short, unbelief loves self more than God, and **lives for my own glory.**

Again **John 5** offers insightful commentary on the root of unbelief.

²³ C.f. Isaiah 55:8-9



In **verse 42**, Jesus tells the unbelieving Jews that,

I know that you do not have the love of God within you.

If you believe God, you love God. But you don't love God – you love yourself! And then in **verse 43** Jesus says,

I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.

Now why would the Jews receive someone who came trying to make a reputation for himself? In his own name?

Because pride loves to associate with winners! We love to imitate the strut of our heroes, and profit from our association with someone else's glory.

But **verse 44** makes it clear – no one will ever believe that Jesus is their Lord and Savior while they are loving human approval more than the glory of God.

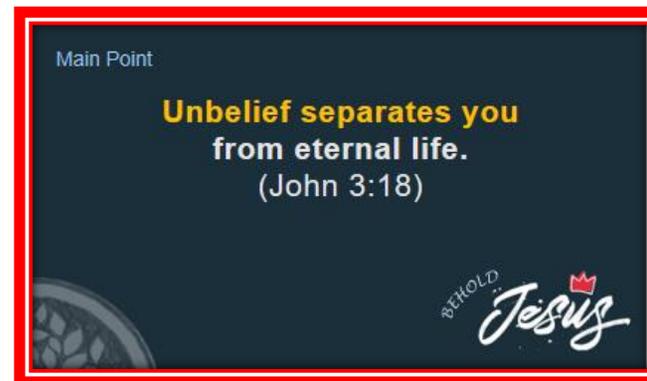
²⁴ Romans 4:20
Page **15a** of 18



Therefore the Jews from Capernaum and Nazareth teach us that unbelief refuses to trust Jesus because it views God's glory as competition for my own glory. Unbelief takes offense at God's glory. And with what result?

Verse 58 says *Jesus did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.*

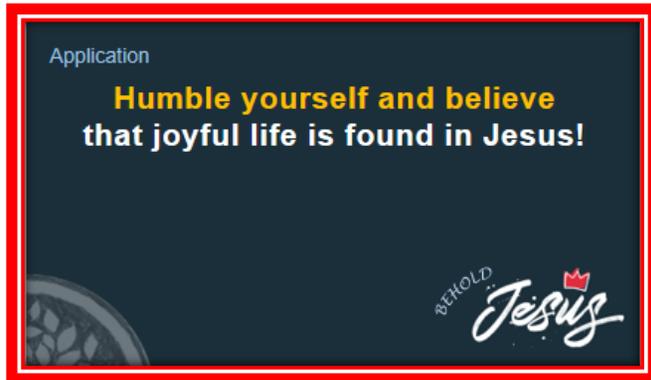
Please don't misunderstand. Unbelief doesn't limit God's power. It's just that God chooses to glorify Himself by showing His power through faith.²⁴ And where there is no faith in Jesus, there is no salvation.²⁵



²⁵ John 14:6; Acts 4:12

Unbelief separates you from eternal life. Unbelief keeps you from God's eternal rest.²⁶ Unbelief cuts you off from God's forgiveness and grace.²⁷

So now that we've exposed this deadly root of unbelief, what must we do today if we are to avoid the cursed end of the souls in Capernaum and Nazareth?



Here's the amazing offer of salvation for each of us today: **Humble yourself and believe that joyful life is found in Jesus!**

You say, but wait... isn't the effect of unbelief that I will not want to believe, but will instead suppress the truth of God's gospel?

Yes – that is the stark reality of sin's corruption on the human soul. Our unbelief blinds us to see Jesus as beautiful and worthy of worship.²⁸

But God, ...Ephesians 2 answers... being rich in mercy,

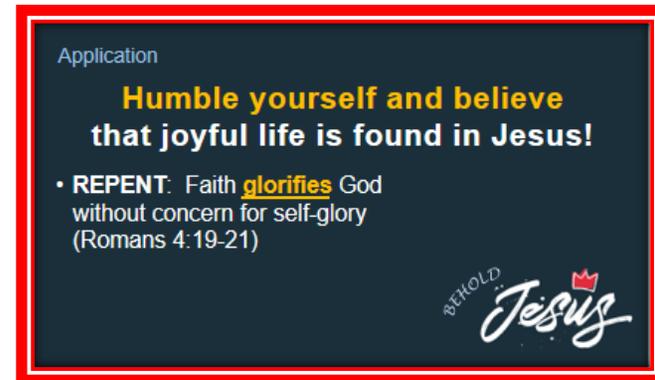
²⁶ Hebrews 3:19

²⁷ Romans 11:20

²⁸ Romans 8:7; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:1-3

because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our sins, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved!!²⁹

O please hear the joyful promise of the Gospel this morning and,



REPENT – turn from your sins and trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for your life! Humble your pride...for **Faith glorifies God without concern for self-glory**. Saving faith is always humble and poor in spirit.

And here's why faith glorifies God: because whenever you believe in Jesus you are giving evidence that His Spirit has opened your eyes and given you a new heart!³⁰

Your faith in Jesus' death for the payment of your sins, and your faith in Jesus' resurrection for your newness of life squarely rests all of your hope for your salvation on something that God did – not anything that you did. Faith glorifies God because faith in Jesus loves and trusts

²⁹ Ephesians 2:4-5

³⁰ John 6:63-65

Jesus more than you love yourself and the praise of other people!

So believe God's gospel this morning! The root of unbelief is the proud demand for human approval.³¹ But the root of faith is humble dependence upon God's grace.³²

Application

Humble yourself and believe that joyful life is found in Jesus!

- **REPENT:** Faith **glorifies** God without concern for self-glory (Romans 4:19-21)
- **RECEIVE:** Faith **loves** God and delights in His grace (1 Peter 1:8-9)

BEHOLD Jesus

Call out to our merciful God of salvation today to **RECEIVE His grace! Faith loves God and delights in His grace.**

Ask God to renew your mind by the washing of His word.³³ Ask God to increase your faith in His goodness and His glory. After all, only Jesus' wisdom³⁴ and works³⁵ can eternally satisfy your soul!

So will you now awaken to the glories of God's gospel which you have become so familiar with that you've no longer delighted in their truths? Will you cast off your

³¹ John 7:4-5

³² Hebrews 11:1

³³ Ephesians 4:23; 5:26

love for human approval and discover that there is no greater joy for the human soul than the glory of God?

Dear soul – Christ alone offers complete transformation of your soul! Come in repentance today, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and receive a heart which truly loves Jesus and lives for His glory!

BEHOLD Jesus

Uprooting Unbelief

Matthew 13:53-58

Let's pray.

<<In Christ Alone>>

Remember to take advantage of the online Downloads and links!

Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.

BEHOLD Jesus

Benediction

"Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O **King of the nations!** ⁴Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

Revelation 15:3b-4

Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.
Revelation 15:3b-4

³⁴ 1 Peter 1:23

³⁵ 1 Peter 2:24-25

Recommended Resources on Uprooting Unbelief:

- Mark 6:1-6; 9:24; 16:14
- John 3:18-19; 5:40, 43-44; 6:65; 7:5, 27-29; 16:9
- Acts 19:9
- Romans 1:18-32; 4:20; 10:21; 11:20
- 1 Corinthians 2:14; 7:14-15
- 1 Timothy 1:13
- Titus 1:15
- Hebrews 3:12, 19; 11:6
- 1 Peter 2:8; 4:17

- <https://faculty.wts.edu/lectures/the-anatomy-of-unbelief-lecture-2-part-1/>
- <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-characters/is-the-perpetual-virginity-of-mary-a-biblical-view/>

- *Battling Unbelief*, John Piper
- *When People are Big and God is Small*, Ed Welch

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Read Luke 4:16-30, which likely occurred about a year before Matthew 13:53-58 and Mark 6:1-6. How does this earlier interaction in Nazareth shed light on their continued unbelief in Matthew 13?
2. Read John 16:9. Is refusing to believe Jesus a sin? Is unbelief the root of all sin, or is sin the root of unbelief? How do you define “sin”?
3. Read John 5:40-44. How does verse 44 expose the love for human approval as the root of unbelief? Why is it impossible to believe in Jesus if you love the praise of people more than the glory of God?
4. Review Matthew 13:55-56. Make a list together of the most common excuses non-believers have for rejecting Jesus. Do you ever justify your disobedience to God’s Word with irrelevant questions or excuses?
5. Read John 5:42 and 1 Peter 1:8-9. At their core, pride is craving for human approval and faith is loving God. Confess any unbelief to one another and pray for each other: that God might increase your love for Him and His glory! Pray that God would so satisfy our souls with His glory that we would become more discontent with sin’s temporary pleasures and deceitful lies.