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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church

Grand Prairie, Texas

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Revealed in Rejection

Matt 13:54-58

Jesus Christ the Fulfillment

A Study in Matthew

Date	Lesson	Text
12/04	Lineage of Jesus	1:1-17; Ruth 4:13-17
12/11	Emmanuel's Birth	1:18-25
12/18	Confirming His Birth	2:7-23
01/08	Special Lesson	Bro. Cisneros
01/15	Strength in Temptation	4:1-11
01/22	Acts of Healing	9:27-34; 11:2-6
01/29	Declared in Prayer Pt1	11:25-30
02/05	Declared in Prayer Pt2	11:25-30
02/12	Revealed in Rejection	13:54-58
02/19	Canaanite Woman	15:21-28
02/26	Declared by Peter	16:13-27
03/04	Witnessed by Disciples	17:1-12
03/11	Anointed in Bethany	26-6-13
03/18	Review and Summary	

Our lesson is set during a period when **Jesus' popularity was skyrocketing. But His celebrity status inevitably made him a controversial figure.** He performed incredible healings and exorcisms everywhere he went. In village after village, the crowds were amazed by his power and by the authority of his teaching. The summary statement at Matthew 9:8 is typical of the crowds' reaction: "When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men." At the same time, however, some members of the Jewish religious leadership were suspicious. In their view, Jesus' teachings were blasphemous (Matthew 9:3). Even John the Baptist, Jesus' relative and forerunner, had begun to doubt whether Jesus was really the Messiah. The preaching and healings were nice, but clearly **Jesus was not organizing the expected revolutionary movement** (Matthew 11:2, 3). This mixed reception was displeasing to Jesus. We see him condemning the wishy-washy crowd in Matthew 11:16-19, just prior to today's first lesson text. The great theologian and church father Augustine (AD 354-430) stated that the expression "familiarity breeds contempt" was already common in his time. This old Latin proverb could well be a paraphrase of Jesus' comment about "a prophet without honor." **It remains a simple fact that we are less impressed with things and people the longer we are exposed to them.** We run a great danger when familiarity makes us take the power and love of Jesus for granted. Those who have been Christians for some time may recall that they felt more "on fire" in the earlier days of their faith, when each page of Scripture seemed to open a whole world of insight. As we become more acquainted with Christ and his teachings over the years, some of the luster can wear off. Maybe that was the problem the ancient Israelites had during Moses' day. Seeing the miraculous "pillar of cloud" and "pillar of fire" all the time should have increased their devotion to God (Exodus 13:21, 22). But **familiarity bred contempt (Numbers 14:11).** Today's passages stress that we can never let Jesus become so familiar that we doubt his ability or challenge his right to go beyond our expectations. If we do, we become worse than those who never knew him in the first place.

(From the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Matthew 13 is a record of some of Jesus' parabolic teaching. A review of the chapter reveals the parables of various soils (vss. 3-9, 18-23), wheat mixed with tares (vss. 24-30, 36-43), a mustard seed (vss. 31-32), leaven (vs. 33), a hidden treasure (vs. 44), an expensive pearl (vss. 45-46), a dragnet (vss. 47-50), and a householder (vs. 52). Jesus had a purpose behind His storytelling, as expressed in verses 11-13. When the disciples asked why He taught this way, He answered, "Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." **The religious leaders had already decided they were not going to accept Jesus and His teaching.** Jesus was not about to give them further spiritual information as long as they rejected what had already been revealed to them. Jesus evidently made two visits to His hometown of Nazareth in the province of Galilee. Luke 4:16-30 tells how the people tried to cast Him off a hill, but He passed through them and went on His way. In our text (Matt. 13:54-58) and in a parallel text (Mark 6:1-6) we find a record of the other visit. Jesus seems amazed that the people showed such a lack of faith. Sometimes the hardest people to convince of our gifts and abilities are those who know us best. Family members and hometown individuals are acquainted with our shortcomings as well as our successes as we are growing up. After we reach maturity and enter our chosen professions or vocations, they view us differently than do our clients and customers. This seems to be the problem Jesus faced in Nazareth.

(From the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

Food for Thought

Rejected

When you feel the deep hurt of rejection, remember that Jesus understands how you feel. He loves you. If you have believed on Him, He has accepted you—and He will never reject those who trust in Him

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

(John 1:11 NJKV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Nov 05, 2002)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

THE REJECTION OF JESUS (MATT 13:54-56)

Rejection through astonishment (54)

Astonishment at the power of Jesus (Acts 3:12-13)

Astonishment that comes from a hardened heart (Mark 6:51-52)

Astonishment because of doubt (Luke 24:37-39)

Astonishment at the greatness of God (Luke 9:43)

Astonishment at how much God loves (John 5:20)

Astonishment at how Jesus does everything perfectly (Mark 7:37)

Astonishment at the faith people put in Jesus (John 12:9-11)

Rejection through human credentials (55-56)

Human credentials that causes others to have an elevated status of a position (Est 3:1-5)

Human credentials that leave no room for God (Ps 10:4-6)

Human credentials that can cause pride (James 1:9-10)

Human credentials that signifies one in authority or lording over others (1 Peter 5:2-4)

Human credentials that sometimes makes one forget that there is a Master in heaven over all (Eph 6:9)

Human credentials that could make one think he is above judgment (James 3:1)

Human credentials that many are not prepared to have (Prov 30:21-23)

Human credentials that makes one forget who is the source of abilities (Deut 8:17-18)

Human credentials that can cause one to become arrogant and hardened with pride (Dan 5:18-20)

JESUS' RESPONSE TO REJECTION (MATT 13:57-58)

Response of understanding their human weaknesses (57)

Understanding human weaknesses by remembering how we are formed (Ps 103:14)

Understanding human weaknesses by remembering we are flesh (Ps 78:39)

Understanding human weaknesses by remembering how fleeting our life is (Ps 89:47)

Understanding human weaknesses by remembering our physical needs (1 Kings 19:7)

Understanding human weaknesses by remembering we tend to doubt (John 20:27)

Understanding human weaknesses and responding with grace (2 Cor 12:9-10)

Understanding human weaknesses through compassion (2 Cor 1:3-4)

Response of restricting His ministry (58)

Restricting His ministry because of not being welcome (Matt 10:11-16)

Restricting His ministry because people were not repenting (Matt 11:20)

Restricting His ministry because of stubborn hearts (Ps 81:11-12)

Restricting His ministry because of people's lack of faith (Mark 16:14)

Restricting His ministry because of people hating Him for no reason (John 15:24-25)

Restricting His ministry because of people not believing Jesus is the Son of God (John 10:36-39)