

FOLLOWING THE PATH OF JESUS

A Harmony Of the Gospels

A Daily Devotional Study Guide - Book 2



Week 17

“Valuable Treasure”

Study: Matthew 13:44-46

Reading: II Corinthians 4:1-18

Memory: 1 John 1:4

When my wife and I were in Athens, we traveled around in their subway system and were amazed by some of the subway stations. Some of the stations were like museums which housed many artifacts from previous civilizations. When Athens undertook the project of building their subway, they knew that they would be digging through thousands of years of civilization. The subway contractors were required to have an archeologist on hand to help them sort through what was found. Many valuable items were found while digging for the subway and were put on display in the various stations. There were other places where the subway had to be re-routed because certain whole areas were too valuable to destroy.

Today, we are going to read how valuable treasure could be found buried in the ground, but that treasure is nothing in comparison with the treasure we have in the kingdom of God.

What Does the Bible Say?

The thought given in verse 44 is a little hard to comprehend in our culture where many places have been settled for under 200 years. When Jesus spoke this parable, much of the middle east had been populated for over 4000 years. Land that they were living on would have already been lived on by many people in a variety of cultures. The chance of finding valuable items hidden in the ground was much higher than it would be for us in the United States today.

This parable described how a man found some type of valuable treasure hidden in a field. Realizing the great value of this, the man sold all he had so that he could go out and buy that field. This might sound ethically questionable, but Jesus was not using the illustration to try to teach an ethical lesson. The point of the parable was that men would be willing to give up everything if it was guaranteed that giving up everything meant that they would gain much more. This illustrated how giving up everything for the kingdom of heaven was well worth it

because of the great treasure that was waiting for those who gave up everything for Him (vs 44).

The next parable that Jesus gave was very similar to the previous one and described a merchant who was in search of pearls. Merchants would often travel great distances to buy valuable items to bring back to the markets of their local country. Good merchants would know the value of certain items and know how much profit could be made. The merchant in this parable came across an amazing pearl somewhere in his travels that he knew would help make him rich. He didn't have the money to buy the pearl, so he returned home and proceeded to sell all of his belongings so that he could have enough to purchase the pearl. He traveled back to where he had found it and spent everything that he owned to obtain it. He did this knowing how much he would make off of his investment. This man wasn't taking a big risk because he knew the great reward that was waiting for Him once he sold the pearl (vs 45-46).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you see the value of eternity with God? Do you understand the fullness of life that you can have in this world? Are you willing to forsake all that you have in order to obtain something much greater? One of the great struggles that hinders many people from coming to Christ is that they have too much of a love for their current situation. They know that if they choose to follow Christ it will cost them much of the life that they know and they are often unwilling to make that choice. Many believers can struggle with the same thing as well. They become so enamored with the world that they are not willing to be obedient to God and sacrifice as God would have them to sacrifice. They hold on to the temporal values of this world because they fail to understand the great riches they have waiting for them if they follow God's leading.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for the eternal treasures you have been given.
- * Ask God to help you value Him above all else.

Thought for the day

What is the kingdom of heaven (vs 44)?

****We have read this phrase several times in our study of the Gospels and have answered this question before. In general, it is a description for following the way of God in which the end result is eternity in heaven. It is not just a picture of the future kingdom though, because you can be a part of the kingdom of heaven on earth. Part of God's kingdom and part of His family.*

What did a man find hidden in a field (vs 44)?

What did this man choose to do once he found the treasure (vs 44)?

Why do you think he did it with joy (vs 44)?

What point do you think Jesus was making with this parable?

Is this how you view the kingdom of God? Explain your answer.

What is the kingdom of heaven compared to (vs 45)?

What did the merchant find (vs 45)?

What did the merchant go do in order to be able to purchase his find (vs 45)?

Do you think this would have been an easy process (vs 45)?

How would this involve faith?

Would this be "blind faith"?

What point do you think Jesus was making with this parable?

****When Jesus calls people to follow Him, He is calling them to change their thinking and change their lifestyle. They may have to give up friends, hobbies, habits and much more. Yet the point made in these two parables is very clear. The sacrifices that are made for Christ on this earth are worth it.*

“The Old and the New”

Study: Matthew 13:47-53

Reading: II Timothy 1:6-14, Luke 16:19-31

Memory: 1 John 1:4

Though I don't want to cast judgement on the churches who have different types of services (traditional and contemporary), I don't think this is something that I would want to do. In our consumer driven culture, it is easy for us to give people what they want without challenging them to conform to what God wants. There are people who always want something new and exciting happening. They pick up every new trend and follow it, while at the same time, there are people who never want anything new and continue in the same thing they have done for years. Sadly, what often happens is that both groups of people think they are right and they never fully get along. A body of Christ should not be divided over the old and the new.

Today, we are going to read how Jesus told His followers that the new and the old were both good and if they are in accordance with Scripture, both should be valued and treasured. We will look at two short parables today and will learn some valuable lessons from both.

What Does the Bible Say?

There are several places in Scripture where Jesus rebuts the idea that all men go to heaven. One of those places is clearly seen in the first parable today as He compared the kingdom of heaven to fisherman. When fisherman would throw their nets into the sea, they would catch all kinds of fish. Some of these fish would not be good for eating, but the fisherman would just load them onto the boat with the rest of their catch. It wasn't until the fisherman arrived on shore that they would sort out the good fish from the bad fish. Those fish that would not be good for eating were thrown back into the water to become food for some other fish to eat (vs 47-48).

Jesus then described how people are like those fish who all live together. There will be a day when the angels come to earth and gather up all man, sorting those who are righteous from those who are unrighteous. Those who are righteous (those who hear the Words of

Jesus and do them) will be taken to eternity with God, while those who had rejected God's way of salvation will be cast into hell. The hell described here and other places in Scripture is not a fun place to hangout with all the other sinners but is a place where there is great misery. The gnashing of teeth mentioned here is a reference to great pain. A person who was in pain would often grit their teeth to attempt to fight through the pain, but those who reject God will do this for eternity (vs 49-50).

Wanting to make it clear that they understood, Jesus asked them if they were comprehending his teaching. Once they affirmed that they understood, Jesus told them that those who were part of the kingdom of God were like an owner of the house who valued both the old and the new things he owned. By this, Jesus was reminding the disciples that His teaching was not completely new, but He was building on the truth that they had heard from their childhood. Jesus didn't come to remove the Old Testament, but came to confirm it and fulfill it. The disciples were to value all the new lessons they were learning from Jesus, but He reminded them that they were to continue to hold to the truths that the Old Testament had taught them (vs 51-53).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that not everyone will go to heaven? I understand that if you are reading this, the message of salvation has probably been imbedded in your mind, but I want you to realize that there are people who will die and go to hell. Hell is a miserable place, and part of your responsibility as a believer is to share the truth of Christ and salvation to those who God has caused to come across your path. God has placed you in a unique position in your job, your neighborhood, your family and your school to be able to share Him with others. Not only have you been commanded to share the truth, but you have also been given the great privilege of working alongside the Holy Spirit to bring people unto God.

Do you find yourself wanting to cling to new ideas or exciting things that come along in the Christian realm that cause you to neglect some of the past? While you should not be stuck in the past and should be willing to branch out and try new things, you need to remember that the old is not bad either. Having a balance between the old and the new is very good. (I am not talking about new doctrine, but new methods in which the doctrine is taught or communicated.) Don't find yourself stuck in the past or always looking for the next best thing. Embrace the old and the new, finding value in both.

What did Jesus say the kingdom of heaven was like (vs 47)?

What happened when a fisherman's net was full (vs 48)?

Did they keep all the fish? Why not?

What did Jesus say this illustration would be like (vs 49)?

What will angels do (vs 49)?

What will happen to those who are unrighteous (vs 50)?

Why do you think that the movement to deny the reality of hell has become popular even though there are passages in Scripture which clearly describe eternal punishment?

What did Jesus ask the disciples (vs 51)?

Why do you think He asked them this?

How did they respond (vs 51)?

Why do you think Jesus used the word "scribe" in verse 52?

****The general term for scribe meant a person who wrote, specifically one who copied the rules or wrote down instructions given by a rabbi. They were known as someone who was a learner, interpreter and teacher of the instructions that were given.*

What did Jesus say that kingdom scribes were compared to (vs 52)?

What does the master of the house see value in (vs 52)?

How does a true learner and interpreter of God's Word see the value in the old and the new?

What are ways that you have found where it is easy to focus on one or the other rather than to value both?

"Peace Be Still"

Study: Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25

Reading: Acts 12:1-19

Memory: 1 John 1:4



Actual hull of a 1st century fishing boat

What Does the Bible Say?

It appears that Jesus wanted to get away from the crowd for a short while for a rest, so He asked the disciples to take Him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. The Sea of Galilee is over 12 miles long at its longest point and over 7 miles wide at its widest point. They pushed out from shore and were in the middle of the Sea when a large storm arose on the Sea. The picture above is an actual boat that was found buried in the mud on the shore of the Sea of Galilee that dates back to around the time of Christ. The boat found is about 27 ft long and 7 feet wide. It was only about 4-5 feet high which would allow it to get close to shore without dragging on the bottom. Because of the low height of the boat, it could

easily take on water in a storm. Scripture describes how the boat that Jesus and His disciples were in started to take on quite a bit of water. The storm that had arisen was so fierce that even the seasoned fishermen were worried that they were not going to survive (Mt 8:23-24, Mk 4:35-37, Lk 8:22-23).

Meanwhile, Jesus was sleeping in the stern (the back) of the boat. The disciples must have been amazed that Jesus could sleep through what was taking place while they were scared for their lives. After bailing water for a bit, they finally woke Jesus up and asked Him if He didn't care that all of them were about to die. They asked Jesus to help do something to save them from what they thought was going to be certain death. To this, Jesus responded by asking them why they were afraid of the storm. Jesus was not being cold or harsh but was attempting to teach His followers a lesson about trusting God with their lives. Jesus then stood up and rebuked the waves for the trouble they were causing. He then declared the words, "Peace Be Still." Immediately, the wind stopped and there was a great calm over all of the sea. (Mt 8:25-26, Mk 4:38-39, Lk 8:24).

Using this to help train the disciples to trust in God, Jesus asked them, "Where is your faith?" He wanted them to know that if they were doing what He asked them to do, they could trust God to keep them safe, even in the midst of the most violent storms. Though the disciples might not have caught on to that lesson immediately, they were in awe of what Jesus had done and how even the wind and the waves obeyed His voice (Mt 8:27, Mk 4:40-41, Lk 8:25)

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you able to sleep when the storms of life are raging around you? Do you find yourself in a panic or filled with constant worry when difficult situations arrive in your life? God will often bring little storms into your life to help grow you and increase your trust in Him. Think of Peter and how differently He responded when he was in jail, scheduled to be killed the next day. Though He was facing certain death in jail, he was fast asleep (Acts 12). One thing that Peter had learned and you can learn as well is that God is in control and can be completely trusted. You don't need to live in fear or worry. You don't need to panic and fret when life becomes difficult and the storms rage around you. You need to remember that even the winds and the waves obey His voice. He has the ability to keep you from any harm that He doesn't want for your life.

Mark 4

What had Jesus just finished doing (33-34)?

***You will notice that we are hopping around quite a bit, especially in the book of Matthew. Yesterday, we were in chapter 13, but today we are in chapter 8.

When does verse 35 say this event happened?

****Jesus had just spent a great deal of time giving parables, like the ones recorded in Matthew 13. Most likely, He gave these teachings more than once, but in attempting to put together the Gospels in chronological order, the chronological guide I am following places it in this spot.*

What did Jesus declare that He wanted to do (vs 35)?

Who was with Jesus (vs 36)?

What happened when they were on their boats (vs 37)?

Why do you think Jesus asked them to go out on the boats if He knew the future and knew a storm was coming?

How bad was this storm (vs 37)?

Where was Jesus during this storm (vs 38)?

What question did they ask Jesus (vs 38)? Why do you think they asked this?

What did Jesus do (vs 39)?

What question did Jesus ask (vs 40)?

What point do you think He was making with this question?

How did the disciples respond to this (vs 41)?

Why do you think they didn't answer the question Jesus asked?

“*Miraculous Conversion*”

Study: Matthew 8:28-34, Mark 5:1-20, Luke 8:26-39

Reading: Mark 10:17-27

Memory: 1 John 1:4

What Does the Bible Say?

After calming the sea, Jesus instructed the disciples to finish taking Him to the other side of the lake to an area where He hadn't visited yet. Matthew calls it the land of the Gadarenes while Mark and Luke call it the country of the Garasenes or Gergasenes. Gadera was a city located about 8 miles from the Sea of Galilee and both those names appear to have been common names for that region of the shoreline. We don't know today the exact spot, but there is a spot near modern day Kursi that seems to fit the description. Since pigs were being herded, it is pretty clear that the territory would have been on the west side of the Sea of Galilee where there were many Roman towns.

When Jesus arrived at the shore, two demon possessed men came to meet Him. Mark and Luke only record that there was one and this is most likely because one of the men was much more predominant. Matthew would have been there personally and remembered both men, while Mark and Luke heard the story



Cliffs of Kursi

from others who probably would have just told about the dominant character in the story. These men lived in the tombs that were located in the area, probably caves in the hillside, and were unclothed because they were living like madmen. People would not pass by that area of the shore for fear of these two men. The authorities of the region had even tried to arrest these men, but the men were too strong and would break the ropes

(and possibly chains) that they were bound with (Mt 8:28, Mk 5:1-5, Lk 8:26-27).

When the men saw Jesus from a distance, they headed to the shore to wait for Him to arrive. As soon as He did, they ran to Him and bowed down at His feet. Without being introduced, these demons knew who Jesus was and called Him the “Son of God” and “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus asked the predominant man what his name was and he declared that his name was Legion, describing how there were many demons inside in this one individual. Jesus told the demons that it was time to leave and the demons begged Jesus not to cast them into the abyss, but to instead send them to dwell in a heard of pigs nearby. The abyss appears to be a reference to the place where demons were chained and unable to freely roam the earth (Mt 8:29-31, Mk 5:6-10, Lk 8:28-31).

Jesus agreed and the demons traveled to the pigs causing them to run down the steep hillside into the Sea of Galilee and drown. There were about 2,000 pigs, but we are not sure if each was demon possessed or the few of them caused the rest of the pigs to stampede. It is not clear either why the demons couldn't just be cast out and had to be cast into another creature. Whatever the case, the pig owners and herders weren't real happy with what had just taken place so they went to report the event to their local authorities (Mt 8:29-33, Mk 5:11-14, Lk 8:32-34).

The men of the city traveled out to the area to find the man who had once been crazy sitting still, clothed and in his right mind. They were afraid of the power of Jesus and what else might happen, so they asked Him to leave their country before He caused any more problems. Jesus obliged and started heading to the boat. The man who had been delivered from the demons followed Jesus and asked if he could go with Jesus. Jesus told the man that it was better for him to stay in his own country and to go and tell others what he had seen Jesus do. The man went away and did as Jesus said, declaring to all the region of Decapolis (ten Roman cities in the region) the things that Jesus had done for him (Mt 8:34, Mk 5:15-20, Lk 8:35-39)

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize the power that God has over demons? Do you understand the ability that God has to change lives? Here was a man that would have been unreachable, but He was not beyond the reach of the power of Jesus. Remember that God has the power to change any heart and life no matter how great the sin they are involved in.

Matthew 8

What had the disciples just witnessed (vs 23-27)?

Where did they land the boat (vs 28)?

Who came out to meet Jesus (vs 28)?

How are these men described (vs 28)?

What did they know about Jesus before being introduced (vs 29)?

What question did they ask Jesus (vs 29)? Why do you think they asked this?

What was happening a distance away (vs 31)?

How can you know that this was not Jewish territory?

****Pigs were unclean according to the Law. Even today in Israel, it is very difficult to find pork products because most Jews don't eat pork.*

What did Jesus tell the demons to do (vs 32)? What happened to the pigs?

What did the herdsmen do (vs 33)?

What happened when the people of the town came to Jesus (vs 34)?

Mark 5

What did the people beg Jesus to do (vs 17)?

Why do you think they begged Jesus to do this though He had done a helpful thing in delivering these two men from demons?

What did one of the men who was delivered want to do (vs 18)?

What did Jesus tell Him to do instead (vs 19)?

Why was it better that this man did not follow Jesus (vs 20)?

“Power Over Death”

Study: Matthew 9:18-26, Mk 5:21-43, Lk 8:40-56

Reading: –

Memory: 1 John 1:4

What Does the Bible Say?

After being sent away from the region of Gadara, Jesus arrived back on the other side of the sea where the crowd had been waiting for Him. Many had come to Him to be healed, or some, like Jarius, had come to Jesus to request healing for someone else. Jarius was the ruler of a Synagogue, but didn't look at Jesus like many of the religious leaders of His day. He had faith that Jesus could heal his twelve year old daughter who was terribly sick and at the point of death. Jarius knew that without divine intervention, his daughter would die and he was attempting to get Jesus to come with him as soon as possible. Jarius went to Jesus and bowed down at His feet, begging Him to come and heal his daughter as soon as possible. He knew that if Jesus just laid His hand on her that she would live and be made well. Jesus agreed and went with Jarius (Mt 9:18-19, Mk 5:21-24, Lk 8:40-42).

Jarius was attempting to rush Jesus to his house when Jesus stopped and asked “Who touched me?” This seemed like a very strange question for the disciples because there was a crowd all around Jesus and He was being touched constantly. The touch that Jesus was talking about was a different kind of touch because this touch was a healing touch. Jesus knew that power had gone out of Him to heal someone and most likely He knew exactly what had happened. There was a woman who had come to see Jesus because she was continually bleeding and that bleeding would not stop. She had tried all that she could and had spent all her money in an attempt to be healed, but nothing helped. Her last ditch effort for healing was to reach out and touch part of the garment of Jesus. She believed if she could do that, she would be healed. She found out that what she thought was true, and she was healed by just touching the end of the garment of Jesus. Instead of rebuking her, Jesus praised her for her great faith and told her that she had been healed (Mt 9:20-22, Mk 5:25-34, Lk 8:43-48).

This delay in Jesus' journey to the house of Jarius must have greatly increased the anxiety of Jarius. This anxiety turned into great sadness

when one of his servants came to him and told him that his daughter had just died. Jesus overheard the conversation and told Jarius not to be afraid, but to believe. Jesus continued to the house of Jarius where there were many people outside loudly weeping and wailing. In Bible days, once a person died, the family would hire professional mourners to cry in front of their house as an announcement to everyone that someone had died (it was their form of an obituary). As Jesus arrived at the house, he told the weepers to stop weeping because the child was not dead, she was only sleeping. The mourners laughed at Jesus, but that didn't deter Him from His plan. He took the mother, father, Peter, James and John with Him into the house and went to where the little girl had died. He took her by the hand and told her to rise. She immediately got up and began to walk. Jesus then instructed her parents to get her something to eat. Following this, Jesus asked them not to tell anyone about what had happened, though He knew they would have a hard time keeping quiet about His great miracle (Mt 9:23-26, Mk 5:35-43, Lk 8:48-56).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize the great power that Jesus had and still has over sin and death? There is no problem or difficulty that is beyond the help of Jesus. Does this mean it is God's plan for everyone to be healed? Of course not. We are told that we will all face physical death because of sin, though there are some times with some people that He chooses to bring them back to full health for a time. Even if things are not working out according to your timing, God is still at work. I wonder what was going through the mind of Jarius when Jesus stopped for the woman with the issue of blood. After all, Jarius had probably been anxiously waiting at the shore for Jesus and now this was his chance to get Jesus to come with Him. Jesus was on His way and Jarius knew that death was coming to his daughter at any moment. Having to wait through the delay must have been agonizing, yet Jesus did it somewhat on purpose. Why? So a greater miracle could take place because now He didn't just heal a very sick girl, but raised her from the dead. This delay caused God to be glorified in a greater way. What a lesson to learn when it doesn't seem that God is doing what you want Him to do in the time frame that you have set up. Sometimes, God delays to bring greater glory to Himself and you need to realize that as you simply trust Him and wait for Him to act. He might not always act in the way you hope or wish, but He will act in ways that is best for you and for His glory.

Luke 8

Where had Jesus returned from (vs 40)?

What was the crowd doing (vs 40)?

Who came to Jesus and begged Him to come with him (vs 41)?

What are we told about his daughter (vs 42)?

What happened to Jesus as He tried to make His way to the house of Jarius (vs 42)?

Who are we introduced to in verse 43?

Why was her condition so dire (vs 43)?

What happened when she touched the edge of Jesus's garment (vs 44)?

Why did Peter think the question Jesus was asking was strange (vs 45)?

What did Jesus know (vs 46)?

Why do you think the woman was scared (vs 47)?

What did Jesus tell her (vs 48)?

What happened because of the delay (vs 49)?

What did Jesus tell Jarius to do (vs 50)?

How is this a powerful reminder for you?

What did Jesus do when He arrived (vs 51)?

What did Jesus declare (vs 52)?

How did this not stop Jesus (vs 53-54)?

What happened to the girl (vs 55-56)?

“Accepted & Rejected”

Study: Matthew 9:27-34, 13:54-59, Mark 6:1-6

Reading: Luke 4:16-30

Memory: 1 John 1:4

What Does the Bible Say?

After healing the daughter of Jarius, Jesus headed to his hometown of Nazareth. Two blind men followed Jesus, crying out to Him and asking Him to have mercy on them. They called Him the “Son of David” which indicated that they thought He was the Messiah. The Old Testament declared that the Messiah would be in the kingly line because He would be a descendant of David. When the two blind men were finally able to catch up to Jesus and ask Him personally to heal them, He asked them if they thought He was able to heal them. Though their actions had already revealed this, they affirmed their belief in Him by declaring that they thought He could heal them. In response, Jesus touched their eyes and told them that their faith had allowed them to be healed. Immediately they regained their sight and Jesus gave them a stern warning not to tell anyone, but, of course, they couldn’t keep quiet about this miracle (Mt 9:27-34).

There were several times that Jesus told those who had been healed not to tell anyone else about what had happened. The exact reason that Jesus did this is somewhat puzzling because it was fairly obvious that the people weren’t going to keep quiet about such great miracles. He might have done this to try to discourage others from coming to Him just to be healed, but He had plenty of people coming to Him anyway. My opinion is that He did this as a sign of humility. The religious leaders of that day did everything for show and wanted to be noticed by as many people as possible. Jesus acted the opposite of this and it was not His intention to bring glory to Himself. It very well could be that this act of discouragement was simply an act of humility to help His followers see the need to be humble themselves.

When Jesus first began His ministry, He had traveled to his hometown of Nazareth and was greatly rejected. In fact, they wanted to kill Him for what He declared about Himself. The events recorded here

in Matthew and Mark seem to be a second visit of Jesus to His hometown, probably hoping things would have changed after His fame had spread and it was very clear that He was different than any other person that had ever lived.

The response that Jesus received at this time was the same response that He received the first time He returned to Nazareth. They were greatly amazed at His teaching and didn’t understand how a carpenter’s son who grew up in their hometown could have such wisdom and understanding. They rejected Him once again, though not with the same force as they had the first time. In response to their rejection, Jesus only did a few minor miracles in Nazareth. Their unbelief was so great that it caused Jesus to marvel at it. Out of all the towns and villages He traveled to and taught in, the rejection by those of Nazareth seemed to be the greatest (Mt 13:54-59, Mk 6:1-6).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you in the category of the blind men or do you fall in line with those in Nazareth? Most people want to think that they are like the blind men who truly believed and trusted Jesus for great healing, but I wonder how many of us fall into the category of the people of Nazareth more than we want to realize. It is very easy to let the regularity of Christianity take over our lives and lose the excitement and trust that we have in Jesus. It is easy to think that God can only work in a certain way and to even reject some of the great things that God is doing because it doesn’t fit in to your understanding of who you think God is. I am not saying that you need to open yourself up to some type of mysticism, but you need to have the faith in God to believe He can do great things. You need to trust Him and let Him continually teach you and change you rather than being caught in a rut that causes you to reject the very changes that God wants to make in your life.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God that He does things out of the ordinary.*
- * *Ask God to help you live a life of great faith.*
- * *Praise God because He is not completely predictable.*

Thought for the day

Matthew 9

What happened when Jesus was heading away from the house of Jarius (vs 27)?

Why did they call Him the Son of David (vs 27)?

What did Jesus ask these blind men (vs 28)?

Why do you think He asked this?

What did Jesus emphasize about their healing (vs 29)?

What did Jesus warn the men about (vs 30)?

How did they respond (vs 31)?

Why do you think Jesus warned many not to tell about what He had done?

What happened when Jesus taught in the synagogues of Nazareth (vs 54)?

Why did they have a hard time believing (vs 55)?

What does this reveal about the family of Jesus (vs 55-56)?

What couldn't they understand (vs 56)?

What was the end result (vs 57)?

What did Jesus declare (vs 57)?

Why do you think He said this (vs 57)?

What did Jesus not do in Nazareth (vs 58)?

What does this reveal about the importance of believing in Jesus and trusting Him to do the miraculous?

What lesson can you learn from this rejection by His own hometown?

Memory Verses

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.