

5. This passage closes with a statement on the importance of faith. How would you summarize the importance of faith based on the following passages?

Matthew 8: <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.

Matthew 8: <sup>26</sup> He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

Matthew 9: <sup>2</sup> Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

Matthew 9: <sup>22</sup> Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.

Matthew 9: <sup>28</sup> When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. <sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you."

Matthew 13: <sup>58</sup> And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Matthew 15: <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

6. What are some of the ways we can grow our faith in God, cooperating with his transforming power in our lives?

7. What are some lessons you can take from this passage for times when you are rejected by friends or family because of your faith in Jesus (or for any other reason beyond your control)?

**"Who Do They Say I Am?"  
(A Series on Matthew 14-17)**

"Who Do You Think You Are?"

Matthew 13:53-58

When Jesus visits his hometown, the response by friends and family is deeply disappointing, but it shows they get it.....and they don't get it.

"How terrifying it is to amaze God with one's unbelief!" (R. Kent Hughes)

**Familiarity Breeds Contempt**

(The Message) Matthew 13: <sup>53-57</sup> When Jesus finished telling these stories, he left there, returned to his hometown, and gave a lecture in the meetinghouse. He stole the show, impressing everyone. "We had no idea he was this good!" they said. "How did he get so wise, get such ability?" But in the next breath they were cutting him down: "We've known him since he was a kid; he's the carpenter's son. We know his mother, Mary. We know his brothers James and Joseph, Simon and Judas. All his sisters live here. Who does he think he is?" They got all bent out of shape.

Matthew 7: <sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

How much does our \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus and with the Bible breed contempt in our hearts?

**Getting It, But Not Getting It**

Do you get it, but, really, you \_\_\_\_\_ get it?

When Jesus makes claims to be your \_\_\_\_\_—your Lord, the Leader of your life—do you push him off or, more likely, do you fail to think about him very much in your daily life and priorities and decisions?

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



Jesus isn't going to intrude into your life if you don't want him to, if you don't actually \_\_\_\_\_ him into your daily life.

apistia (= \_\_\_\_\_ faith; unbelief)

oligopistia (= " \_\_\_\_\_ faiths")

## The Scandal of an Ordinary God

"The 'carpenter' was a significant member of the community. Tektōn, traditionally translated 'carpenter,' is a general term for a 'constructor,' and probably denotes general building work including masonry as well as woodwork; he was a skilled craftsman, probably also dealing with agricultural and other implements." (R.T. France)

God being born in poverty and straw is one thing. God getting up every day and going to \_\_\_\_\_ fixing farm implements or building a wall is something else.

Do you get it? That your daily work and \_\_\_\_\_ are as much ministry as the work of missionaries we support all over the world? Do you get it on Monday?

## Getting It But Not Getting It, Then Getting It

Mark 3: 20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. 21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

Don't ever count anybody out. Their story is still \_\_\_\_\_.

"The next Jonathan Edwards might be the man driving in front of you with the Darwin Fish bumper decal. The next Charles Wesley might be a misogynistic, profanity-spewing hip-hop artist right now. The next Charles Spurgeon might be managing an abortion clinic right now. The next Mother Teresa might be a heroin-addicted porn star right now. The next Augustine of Hippo might be a sexually promiscuous cult member right now, just like, come to think of it, the first Augustine of Hippo was." (Russell Moore)

Some people who get it but don't get it will get it. Don't give up on them. Don't even give up on \_\_\_\_\_.

## Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Matthew 13:53-58. How do you think Jesus felt about the response he received in his hometown?
3. Why does familiarity with Jesus, the Bible, and the church often breed contempt (or maybe a sense of entitlement or an attitude of taking it all for granted)?
4. What are some of the ways you can keep from taking the realities of God for granted and keep the wonder alive in your heart? (If you are a parent with kids still living at home, answer this from the perspective of helping your kids discover and keep the wonder.)