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: ¹³ 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: 26 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: ² 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: 22 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: 28 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. 29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you."

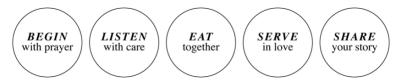
Matthew 13: 58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Matthew 15: ²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is aranted." 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)?

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



SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

"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: ^{53.57} 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: ²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ 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 _____

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?	

aet it?

	ude into your life if you don't want him to, if you don't actually into your daily life.	Pleas
apistia (=	faith; unbelief)	1. L
oligopistia (= "	faiths")	
The Scandal of an	Ordinary God	
translated 'carpenter,' i general building work i	significant member of the community. <u>Tektōn</u> , traditionally is a general term for a 'constructor,' and probably denotes ncluding masonry as well as woodwork; he was a skilled so dealing with agricultural and other implements." (R.T. France)	2. F
	verty and straw is one thing. God getting up every day and fixing farm implements or building a wall is something else.	
	ur daily work and are as much ministry as ses we support all over the world? Do you get it on Monday?	
Getting It But Not	Getting It, Then Getting It	3. \
disciples were not even	entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his a able to eat. ²¹ When his family heard about this, they went to they said, "He is out of his mind."	
Don't ever count anyb	ody out. Their story is still	
Fish bumper decal. The hip-hop artist right now clinic right now. The ne now. The next Augustir	wards might be the man driving in front of you with the Darwin e next Charles Wesley might be a misogynistic, profanity-spewing of the next Charles Spurgeon might be managing an abortion ext Mother Teresa might be a heroin-addicted porn star right are of Hippo might be a sexually promiscuous cult member right think of it, the first Augustine of Hippo was." (Russell Moore)	4. \ 9 †
	it but don't get it will get it. Don't give up on them. Don't even	

	Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions
Ple	ase 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.)