

# LWML *Texas* District

March 27

Bible Study or Meditation

## Rejected

Have you ever felt like you don't belong? People are invited to a party, but you are left off the guest list. Or you are at an event, but you are ignored and neglected by the other people at the party. Would you believe Jesus had a similar experience?

Jesus was from the Jewish town of Nazareth, but the majority of his ministry took place in Capernaum. But why? *And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, 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? 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? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" 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." And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief* (Matthew 13:53–58).

What limited the power of God? Verse 58 says, He did not do many mighty works because of their unbelief. It was not that His power was truly limited, but if He had done mighty works there, it would have been for naught. Because of their lack of faith, they wouldn't have cared or noticed or appreciated the awesome gift of God in their presence.

What about us? What amazing things could God be doing in our lives that we miss out on because of our lack of faith? Jesus tells us, *"and whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith"* (Matthew 21:22). We are also told to pray, *"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"* (Matthew 6:10). The Matthew 6 passage helps us better understand the relationship between prayer and faith. We are praying for God's will, not our own.

Going back to Jesus' rejection in Matthew 13:57, there were some in His hometown that rejected the fact that He is the Son of God. By faith, we can know who Jesus is, and have confidence that He will hear our prayers and answer them. He will give us what we need. He knows our struggles, our loneliness, our abandonment, and our doubts. He knows us and loves us. May He strengthen our faith and increase our desire for His will to be done in our lives.

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