

The Power of Unbelief, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 13:53-58.

B. There is power in unbelief just as there is power in unbelief.

II. Matthew shows us that we should expect people to respond to Jesus in unbelief.

A. Some responded with offense.

B. Some responded in fear.

C. Others responded with shallow, temporal belief.

D. The disciples responded with worship, which was "good soil."

E. Others responded in great faith.

F. Others responded in amazement, which was only temporal and short of great faith.

G. Others responded by attacking Jesus.

H. We can expect the same responses in the world.

III. Jesus' coming to Nazareth.

A. Jesus defended his right to minister to the nations. (Matthew 4)

B. The people tried to kill him because of their nationalism.

C. He returned to teach them in the synagogue anyway.

D. People marveled at Jesus' teaching because...

1. He was authoritative. (Matthew 7)

2. He had knowledge. (John 7:15)

3. He had grace in his speech.

4. He spoke with power. (Luke 4:32)

5. His speech was unique. (John 7:46)

E. The people were astonished, but their hearts were still filled with unbelief.

F. Unbelief is an act of the will.

IV. The power of unbelief: it blurs the obvious.

A. The people asked where his supernatural power and divine wisdom came from, but the answer was obvious.

B. Jesus' enemies never refuted that he did miracles, which is one of the greatest apologetics for the deity of Christ. (John 8:42; 10:37)

C. The reason people do not believe is not a lack of evidence but a love of evil. (John 3:18)

Application Questions:

1. What was so surprising about the response to Jesus at Nazareth?

2. Why is unbelief possible in the face of such compelling evidence?

3. When have you struggled with belief? How can a knowledge of what belief is help you respond differently in the future? Explain.
