



Without Honor

WK 57 Matthew

WARM UP: *Have you ever met someone famous without knowing it? If you had known who they were or what they had done, would you have treated them differently? Why or why not?*

Honor and respect are something that is given not necessarily earned. Honor and respect say more about us than it does the person to whom it is directed when it comes to our human relationships. It is about treating others the way that we would want them to treat us regardless of our pedigree or our degree. But when it comes to God, it is an entirely different story.

Following the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus returned to his hometown and began to teach in the synagogue. By this time, word of his teaching, his miracles, and the crowds that were following him around had no doubt filtered back to his hometown. And when he began to teach them, they were amazed at his knowledge and understanding. This was a side of Jesus they hadn't seen and the scripture tells us that they took offense at him. While their reaction to Jesus is mind blowing, it is entirely human.

READ ABOUT IT: Matt. 13:53-58

1. *How much of what has been happening do you think the people in Jesus' hometown have heard?*
2. *How would one explain their response to Jesus' knowledge and anointing when he taught them?*
3. *Listening to their comments, why do they seem to be having a hard time seeing Jesus in a new light? What were their reasons?*
4. *How does what you think you already know about Jesus keep you from learning or accepting new things from Him?*
5. *What was the end result of their lack of faith? What does unbelief keep us from?*
6. *At Christmas time, what do people think about when they think about Jesus?*
7. *What do you think? Do the images of a baby in a manger help or hurt people from seeing Jesus as he truly is? How so?*
8. *If you grew up in church and have always known about Jesus, what does this story say to you about not taking Jesus or your relationship with Him for granted?*