
Heart and Soul ... A Weekly Meditation

January 11, 2015

Seeking Jesus

*“Prophets are honored everywhere
except in their own hometowns and in their own households.”*
Matthew 13:57 (Common English Bible)

According to Matthew, the only time Jesus had difficulty blessing people and performing miracles was when He was visiting His old hometown, Nazareth. Far from having pride in someone who left home and did well, Matthew tells us that the people of Nazareth were “repulsed” by Jesus and disbelieved that Jesus could do anything. I imagine that caused some degree of hurt for Jesus.

What is fascinating about this story is that Jesus isn’t the only one wounded by this unkindness and disbelief. The people are wounded also; their disbelief results in their missing out on God’s goodness. Disbelief always results in limited blessings.

The citizens of Nazareth didn’t believe because they thought they knew all there was to know about Jesus. They knew His parents, they watched Him at play with the other children and they watched Him grow up. They were familiar with Jesus. The difficulty is that familiarity usually results in limited expectations. Expect little and you are rarely disappointed.

Some of us have also spent our lives hanging around Jesus. Perhaps it is more accurate to say that some of us have spent considerable time hanging around the church. We have heard all the stories, listened to sermons and perhaps even taught about Jesus to children in Vacation Bible School. Trouble is, this familiarity has diminished our expectation of Jesus really showing up when we need Him most.

If you need something extraordinary to happen in your life right now, the best that you can do is to seek Jesus. Not necessarily more information about Him. What is meant is that we need to seek a personal relationship with Jesus. Relationships are not made quickly. They are cultivated over time. But an abiding relationship with Jesus, carefully built, will result in extraordinary power unleashed in our lives. Jesus may not fix our lives, but what we discover is Jesus standing with us in the dark places. And that may be all the comfort and encouragement we need.

Prayer: Through daily spiritual practices, solitude, community with other Christians and sharing my faith with others, help me build a closer relationship with You, O Lord, one that will sustain me in times of disappointment and difficulty. Amen.

Doug Hood

Reprinted from page 73 of Heart & Soul: Meditations to Encourage the Heart & Refresh the Soul by Dr. W. Douglas Hood, Jr.