

# *Matthew 13:53-58*

*Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011*

## **What does deadly unbelief look like?**

### **Prayer**

Father, what a privilege it is to be able to come before You, to know that because of Christ we can have our requests heard and know that You listen, Lord God. And Father, we are so thankful that it is so joyful and wonderful and peaceful to trust in Christ. Father, thank You for Your Son who died for our sins, who rose from the dead and is at Your right hand interceding for us. Father, thank You for an opportunity to come together and worship You and give You glory and honor due Your name. For You are worthy of all glory and honor. Father, thank You for an opportunity to be looking into Your Word today and I pray that You would help us to set aside sin, that we would confess it, know You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Father, may we come before You in humility and receive Your Word implanted. I pray You would prepare our hearts that we would respond in a way that would glorify You. Thank You for Your Word today. We commit this time to You now. In Jesus' precious name, amen.

### **Sermon**

Well, I do not know if you have noticed lately, but throughout the evangelical church, there are a lot of different ministries out there that are designed to help convince people to believe in Jesus or to believe things about the Bible, ministries that take evidence and try to convince people concerning the resurrection or whatever it might be. There are ministries about Genesis that try to convince people to not believe in evolution. Now although within these ministries many of them share the Gospel - and praise the Lord for that; I praise Him when I hear the Gospel shared - sometimes within these ministries, instead of sharing the Word of God, they reason with non-believers to try to convince them of what Jesus says.

Non-believers, when their hearts are hard, will have diversionary questions. Today if you are sharing the Gospel, someone will say, "What about those people over in Africa who have never heard of the Word of God?" Or there will be many questions that pull away from the plain facts and truth of the Gospel. And we set up ministries to help answer those questions. But I believe those questions are diversions from the Truth and diversions from faith in Christ.

And we are going to see today what deadly unbelief looks like. There are those who believe they are trusting the Lord but are not trusting the Lord. And there are those who are trusting the Lord that ARE trusting the Lord. We saw in the book of John, there were those who said they believed; but they did not believe. What I am trying to say is that sometimes unbelief does not look the way we think it looks; sometimes it is not as obvious as we think it is. And today as we look at our Lord's words, we are going to see Him unveil the unbelief of those in His hometown. So would you turn with me in your Bibles to the book of Matthew and we are in chapter 13; and Lord-willing, we will finish chapter 13 today. That

# *Matthew 13:53-58*

*Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011*

would be a great blessing to continue through. Matthew, chapter 13. And we are going to be looking at verse 53 to start.

And I want to remind of you of the context of the book of Matthew. What a wonderful book! It is about Jesus, the King of the Jews! It is about God who took on human flesh and "...you should call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins." In chapter 1, the Lord came and took on human flesh, God in flesh to bring salvation right away. And then in chapter 2, the responses to that: those who wanted to kill Jesus, those who did not care about Jesus, and those who wanted to worship the Lord. And we saw that He fulfills a prophecy that points to the fact that He is the King. And we saw the way being prepared for Him by John the Baptist. Repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Make straight the paths. There needs to be a stirring and a tearing of the hearts of the people, recognizing their sinfulness, that they are prepared to receive the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We saw Him identify with sinners although He was sinless and spotless when He was baptized. God's declaration of being well-pleased with Him: "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him." We saw the Lord Jesus begin His ministry as He was taken by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil in the wilderness, that He responded in His humanity, although being fully God, by repeating back and sharing, "Thus it is written." He responded to temptations with the Word of God, and Satan left for a more opportune time. And we saw Him call four fishermen who dropped everything to follow the Lord Jesus. Yet the multitudes followed Him for the healings and the things He could do for them.

Then we came to a section in the book of Matthew which is a bracketed area; it starts at the end of chapter 4 and ends in chapter 9. And it is those verses that speak of Jesus. He went around preaching the Gospel and teaching and healing. And that is what we see in chapters 5-9, the encapsulation of the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ in chapters 5-7: what one, who really is in the kingdom, looks like - the blessed.

And then the Lord Jesus unveiled the hypocrisy of the Jews that were teaching them: "You have heard it said, but I say to you..." The living God in human flesh says to you... Although they had an external religiousness, the Lord Jesus went right to the hearts: that we have a heart problem, we as mankind. That if we are angry with someone, it is as good as murdering. If we are lusting, it is as good as adultery. We have a heart problem, and we need to take care of that heart problem. And the Lord Jesus pointed out the He was the solution to that. "Enter by the narrow gate for the way is broad, the road is wide, which leads to destruction. And that the way is narrow that leads to life."

Then the Lord Jesus, shared there would be threats to that. There would be false teachers in sheep's clothing, those who you would certainly know by their fruits. And we saw the fruits of false teachers. The fruit of false teachers is people who think they know the Lord but do not really know the Lord. Those who would say, "Lord, Lord, didn't we do this and that?" and He would say to them, "Depart from Me, I never knew you, you who practice lawlessness. Lawlessness is sin. You are still in your sins. I do not know you." And He encapsulated the summary of this teaching with an illustration about one who built his house on a rock and one who built his house in the sand, illustrating that those true believers

# *Matthew 13:53-58*

*Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011*

are those who hear the Word and do it. They have the capability because of a genuine relationship with the living God - not only to hear it but to do it, and they do. They are like those who built the house on the rock. But those who built their house (their spiritual house) in the sand – they believe they can do it; they hear the Word, but they do not do it. And when the storm came and the flood, the house fell, and “Great was its fall.”

And then we saw in chapters 8 through 9 the affirming miracles of the Lord Jesus. And I shared with you never to take the miracles apart from the teaching. The Lord went about teaching and preaching, and He affirmed His person and His work, His words, with the miracles. We saw that Jesus has power over the natural sphere - the supernatural sphere - that He has power over sin and death. After chapter 9, the Lord Jesus, looking out with a compassionate heart towards the lost, saw the multitudes ready to be harvested. They are on the verge of judgment; they are really close. And Jesus therefore told His disciples to beseech the Lord of the harvest to send workers. And then the Lord Himself prepared and taught and instructed His disciples to go out and do exactly what He asked them to pray for.

And then we saw things starting to change in chapter 11 where the Lord Jesus, after having shared to these Jews, was now beginning to share condemnation upon them. He was saying this present generation of Jews that He was speaking to - those ones that had heard His Word throughout - they were like spoiled children. They did not hear what they liked. Jesus was not playing the game that they wanted to play. John the Baptist was not playing the game they wanted to play. They are like spoiled children.

And then we saw Him very clearly condemn the unrepentant cities. He said they would have a stricter judgment than even Sodom and Gomorrah because they had had so many miraculous things done in their midst affirming the Truth which Jesus had shared, which should have led them to repentance. But they were unwilling.

And then in chapter 12, we see really the opposition begin to form and really press upon the Lord as He is set up by the Pharisees (or so they think); they think they have got Him set up. They want Him to break the Sabbath which was their “sacred cow” and their false religion. And the Lord Jesus, in His perfect wisdom, righteousness and love, turned it around on their heads showing that He is the one doing good on the Sabbath and they were the ones doing evil on the Sabbath, plotting to kill Him. We saw the Lord Jesus make it clear that after He had healed and cast out a demon from a blind and a dumb man, that the Pharisees attributed that to Satan. Jesus made it clear they had committed the unpardonable sin. They had spoken against the Holy Spirit; they had seen the convicting work clearly by the Spirit of God and they attributed it to Satan and that sin is unforgiveable. When the Spirit of God is convicting you concerning the person of Christ and your sin and you reject that, it is unforgiveable.

Then they wanted more signs. And that is what unbelievers always want, is more signs. They want signs. “Prove it to me! I want more. I need more proof.” And Jesus said they were an evil and unbelieving generation, that no more signs would be given to them except the sign of Jonah. And that

# *Matthew 13:53-58*

*Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011*

sign of Jonah would be that just like Jonah was in the belly of the sea monster for 3 days and 3 nights straight, so would the Son of Man.

And then we came to chapter 13 after Jesus had condemned the Pharisees and the multitudes. He says in the beginning of chapter 13, "On that day" - the day in which He had condemned them. He began speaking in parables, hiding and veiling His Truth from the multitudes. And His disciples asked Him why. And He explained basically because they had hardened their hearts, they had closed their eyes to the Truth. Therefore in fulfillment of prophecy, He would speak in parables so that "...seeing they would not see and hearing they would not hear" and, as Luke would say, that they would be judged ultimately and not be forgiven. That is what Luke would say. There is a point where the Lord Jesus allows you to be veiled to the Truth when you have rejected the clear teaching of the Gospel. It was a sad day and God had given them over.

And then we saw some parables: the Parable of the Sower which was explained later on to the disciples which showed the different types of responses to the Gospel. The majority of the responses are going to be negative. And it showed one response that bore fruit. And then, why is God's kingdom is so small? Why when you look upon the earth are there so few true believers? Why are there so few true believers? Why is His kingdom so small? Why is there so much sin and wickedness and rebellion out on the earth? And He gave illustrations that the Kingdom was like a mustard seed – the smallest but will be the largest. It is like leaven. It is introduced and will permeate everything. And we saw the illustrations that at the end of the age, He would take out the wicked and then the righteous would shine and it would be the biggest. But ultimately the reason why God's kingdom is not the biggest right now is because He is still saving people. He is unwilling that any should perish. If He were to come and establish His kingdom now, He would have to get rid of all of those, as we saw, bad fish, all of those who were in their sin. He would judge them and time would be up. And God is a gracious God giving time for people to repent.

Then last week, we saw what is most valuable through some parables - what is most valuable. That the kingdom is compared to the most valuable thing you could ever find and you would be a fool to not give up everything for the kingdom. You would be a fool not to give up everything for a genuine relationship with the living God. You would be a fool not to give up your sinful, wicked life and turn to Christ through faith to receive an eternal life and a relationship with Him forever. Nothing compares and that those who truly see the value of the kingdom of God, which speaks of the King Jesus, would give it up immediately; they would sell everything they have. It was not speaking of works salvation; it was speaking of value, of value. And brother and sister, we were reminded how valuable a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ is, that we can know and walk with the living God and that after this time of sin and sorrow will be done, that God will make everything right for His true believers. We will shine in righteousness like the sun and be with Him forever with no more sin, no more tears, no more sorrow. It is so wonderful we cannot even fathom it and we look forward to that hope of His coming again. It is so valuable, we would be fools to hold onto our sinful, wicked ways rather than to repent and trust in Christ. And He asked the disciples after He shared the consequences of those who would not repent, the consequences of eternal fire; and He said, "Do you understand these things?" And they said, "Yes."

## Matthew 13:53-58

Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011

Then last week at the end, there is a responsibility through one more parable. He shows that those who believe and understand have a responsibility like household stewards to take those treasures, the treasures of the Word of God and to bring it out at the proper time, old and new.

And now we come to our passage today where we will see, I believe, what religious unbelief looks like. And I say religious because we will see these people were very religious. And also it gives us a picture of unbelief. So would you turn in your Bibles with me to Matthew, chapter 13, verse 53, and we will read the whole passage first.

**<sup>53</sup> And it came about that when Jesus had finished these parables (that is what I just talked about), He departed from there. <sup>54</sup> And coming to His home town He began teaching them in their synagogue, so that they became astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom, and these miraculous powers? <sup>55</sup> "Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? <sup>56</sup> "And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" <sup>57</sup> And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his home town, and in his own household." <sup>58</sup> And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.**  
**[Matthew 13:53-58]**

First of all, unbelief is founded in a rejection of the Word of God and ultimately, the person of Christ. That is the core of unbelief, rejection of the Word of God and the person of Christ. Again, verse 53, it says, "It came about when Jesus had finished these parables, He departed from there. And coming to His home town He began teaching them in their synagogue..." So we see very clearly that when Jesus finishes His parables - He was outside giving the parables to the multitudes - He went inside to a house. He explained them to His disciples and then it says when He finished doing that, He went to His own hometown and most likely, it seems like, He was in Capernaum originally - that was where His ministry was based. That is where He did the most miraculous. And evidently, He left Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee and had gone to His home town which was Nazareth. Remember we saw that He had settled as a babe in Nazareth. We saw that His parents had brought Him there back in Matthew, chapter 2.

If you want to turn back to verse 23, we will see that. And while you are turning to Matthew 2:23, I just want to explain that Nazareth was about 55 miles north of Jerusalem in the Galilee area. After God had taken on human flesh, His parents were warned to take Him away and they fled to Egypt to escape Herod's deadly desire to kill the Son of God (ultimately Satan through Herod as we see in Revelation 12). And they fled, but when they came back, they settled in Nazareth. Matthew 2:23: "...and came and resided in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He shall be called a Nazarene.'" And very clearly, the Lord Jesus Christ grew up in Nazareth. He is Jesus of Nazareth. He was a small child; He grew up and He came to adulthood in the city of Nazareth. If you turn with me to Luke, chapter 2, we see some interesting things concerning the Lord Jesus and His childhood. Luke, chapter 2. And here we find Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to Jerusalem to present

# Matthew 13:53-58

Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011

Him before the Lord in Luke 2:22. And then we see after that, they return to Nazareth. Luke 2:39. So He was a small babe. Luke 2:39:

**<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the Child (that is speaking of Christ, God in human flesh) continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. <sup>41</sup> And His parents used to go to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; <sup>43</sup> and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. And His parents were unaware of it... [Luke 2:39-43]**

And you know the story from this point – I am not going to read the rest of it - but Jesus is 12 years old; He is still called a boy and He stayed behind because He was in His Father's house. He was speaking the Word of God, and they were amazed by that. And if you look down to verse 51, it says after they became aware that Jesus was not with them, they left Jerusalem and then were already on their way home and realized, "Where is Jesus?" And they came back and got Him and verse 51 says,

**<sup>51</sup> And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth; and He continued in subjection to them (for every parent, those are beautiful words, right? We see the God of the universe in subjection to His parents. And it says here,) and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. [Luke 2:51-52]**

He grew up in Nazareth. And He grew up before the Father like a tender shoot. He had no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him. He grew up just like anyone else would grow up in a town. And the people are saying, "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't His Mother Mary? Aren't those His brothers? Aren't those His sisters?" There was nothing special about Him in His humanity apart from what He did and said, apart from what He did and said.

Jesus grew up in humility and there was nothing special. And there are some apocryphal, wicked tales from false teachers throughout the years that make up these stories about how Jesus when He was a kid would touch a bird with a broken wing and it would fly away healed and all this miraculous stuff. I do not believe that that is the case at all. He grew up in subjection to His parents; He grew in wisdom and stature, and we do not see Him doing the miraculous until He begins His ministry. There was nothing outwardly special about the Lord Jesus, and that is one of the reasons why these people pose us the diversionary questions, as we will see in a minute. "Isn't that the carpenter's son?" They knew of Him for His entire life. But we know that He was the sinless, spotless Lamb of God; and what an amazing thing that He would humble Himself to become like us and grow up just like us! The first Adam was fully grown when he was created; the second Adam, not created. God who took on human flesh became a babe and grew up just like us.

## Matthew 13:53-58

Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011

So what does it say? It says back in our passage in Matthew 13: “And coming to His home town (what does He do in His home town?) He began teaching them in their synagogue...” That is what the Lord did. You follow His ministry and everywhere He goes, He is teaching and preaching the Word of God, affirmed with those miraculous things. This is what He does. He comes to His home town and what does He do? He teaches there.

Now the synagogue means literally *gathering place* or *meeting place*. And historically speaking when the Jews were exiled to Babylon, they no longer had a temple to worship at so during the exile, the idea of the synagogue came about in which they would gather together to worship the Lord. There would have to be at least 12 Jewish men to make a synagogue. And apart from the temple in Jerusalem, at this time in Israel the synagogues were their religious centers. This is where they carried on matters of Israel’s theocracy, legal matters and all sorts of things. And they would meet, I believe, here on the second and fifth days, and they would meet on the Sabbath in the synagogues. And during these meetings, they would pray and they would have someone stand up and read the Word of God and then expound upon the Word of God. And this is what we see the Lord Jesus doing in the synagogue. So our text says, “And coming to His home town He began teaching them in their synagogue.”

Now this translation says, “...began teaching...” You might have *began* in italics and that is because that is not in the original translation. They are trying to help you understand as they go from Greek to English. But you could literally say “He was continually, habitually teaching in the past.” He is pointing back to this point that when Jesus was there, He was teaching on and on and on. It was not like he just started. He had been teaching continually. He came to His home town and He had been teaching them continually in the synagogue. And folks, if we remember what we have seen in Matthew so far, the Lord Jesus taught about the kingdom of God. He began back in chapter 4:17 to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” The King is at hand! You need to repent of your sins. Sin is keeping you from a relationship with the King. Repent for the kingdom is at hand! And we must not forget the fact that the Lord Jesus, as we saw as Bob read in the synagogue portion from the book of John – that was in the synagogue in Capernaum – that He clearly taught forth the reality that they must believe in Him and that they are sinful. We saw it back (as I summarized it already) in chapters 5-9 that He went right to the problem, the problem of the heart, that they needed to enter through the narrow gate. Jesus preached the good news about Himself. Mark, chapter 1 (I will read this for you), verse 14 and 15:

***<sup>14</sup> And after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." [Mark 1:14-15]***

When Jesus came and taught in synagogues and preached, He preached the gospel and He called upon them to repent of their sins. And He uncovered their sins. Matthew, chapter 11, when He finished giving instructions to the disciples, what did they do? The same thing He was doing. They departed to teach and preach in the cities. Matthew 11:1. We see Him doing the very same thing in Luke, chapter 20, verse 1, “And it came about on one of the days while He was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel...” So when we think of the Lord coming to Nazareth and teaching in their

## Matthew 13:53-58

Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011

synagogue, He was teaching and preaching the Word of God, unveiling sinful hearts, revealing Himself as the Savior, the Living Bread that if you partake of, you will never die.

So how did they respond? Let's kind of jump down in our passage a little earlier. How did they respond? Look down at verse 57: "And they took offense at Him." That is not a good response. Verse 58, chapter 13: "And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief." They did not believe.

Now what did Jesus teach them? We have kind of alluded to it. Bob read what could have been taught earlier in John, chapter 6. What did He teach? Well, I think we can learn from His first synagogue visit and teaching back in Luke, chapter 4. If you would turn with me for a second, we are going to see what the Lord taught in the city of Nazareth in their synagogue the first time He was there teaching. Now He had grown up there and been there all His life; but after He had gone out and ministered, He came back to Nazareth and He went in their synagogue. Luke, chapter 4, verse 16. Luke 4:16:

<sup>6</sup> **And He came to (where?) Nazareth (right? Okay?), where He had (what?) been brought up (this is His home town); and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book, and found the place where it was written, (this is Isaiah 66, by the way, for us) <sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are downtrodden, <sup>19</sup> To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord." <sup>20</sup> And He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed upon Him. <sup>21</sup> And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." <sup>22</sup> And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, "Is this not Joseph's son?" <sup>23</sup> And He said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me (you see, here is the beginning of their unbelief. He is claiming very clearly to be the Messiah and they are saying, "Wow, these gracious words! This is really wonderful! Isn't this Joseph's son?" It seems kind of odd, doesn't it? And notice Jesus' response to them. This is not a very nice response in terms of patronizing them at all. The Lord clearly shares the truth as He always does), "No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your home town as well.'" <sup>24</sup> And He said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his home town. <sup>25</sup> "But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; <sup>26</sup> and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon (that is a Gentile woman and land, by the way), to a woman who was a widow. <sup>27</sup> "And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian (he is a Gentile also)." <sup>28</sup> And all in the synagogue were filled with rage as they**

# Matthew 13:53-58

Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011

**heard these things** (basically Jesus was saying and pointing back to the time of Israel's unbelief; and He is associating their unbelief and their wretchedness and God's unwillingness to do the miraculous back then because of -the same point here - their unbelief. This is His first synagogue sermon, by the way, in His home town); <sup>9</sup> **and they rose up and cast Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. [Luke 4:16-29]**

Now that is not a very good reception, is it? They did not want to hear at all what He was saying. He was confronting their sin; He was revealing Himself. "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your presence." He was claiming to be the Messiah of the Old Testament. And they wanted to kill Him! That is the first visit!

So evidently time has passed by, and He has gone out and so much has been spoken of Him. His reputation in that sense has gotten very large. Everyone has heard about it. And He comes back to Nazareth and evidently, they are not going to throw Him off the cliff; but we are going to see they have the same response of unbelief, the same response. And we will see what Jesus does. And we will see how they try to wiggle out of their unbelief. So back to our passage. Look at verse 57: "They took offense at Him." We will look at that in a minute. "And He did not do many miracles because of their unbelief." They rejected His teaching. That is what He came to do; He was teaching in the synagogue. And that teaching, no doubt from everything we see in Scripture, was about Himself as the Messiah and about the sinfulness of mankind and their need of a Savior. They rejected it. They rejected it. That is the basis of unbelief, rejecting the Word of God and thus, the God of the Word.

Now why would someone want to reject such a wonderful thing? Why would anyone say, "Wow, I really love my sinful life" rather than giving it up and being forgiven and made right with God? Why would anyone do that? Well, if you turn with me to John, chapter 3, we see the Lord sharing very clearly here through His Word why people do not repent, why people stay the way they are, why those in the synagogue at that point did not believe, why they were offended. And these were religious people, no doubt. No doubt, probably the whole town basically was there. You know, they were religious. They went to the synagogue; they did their religious duty. They were following the Lord of Scripture they thought. John, chapter 3, verse 17. We always read John 3:16 which is a wonderful verse; but if we go on to verse 17, we see very clearly some truth that helps us understand.

<sup>17</sup> **"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.** (His first coming is salvation. His second coming is judgment. First coming: all salvation.) <sup>18</sup> **"He who believes in Him** (that is the person of Christ who came into the world – God taking on human flesh) **is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.** <sup>19</sup> **"And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world** (that is the Lord Jesus), **and men loved the darkness rather than the light** (and here is why); **for their deeds were evil** (evil religious deeds in their context). <sup>20</sup> **"For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds**

## Matthew 13:53-58

Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011

**should be exposed.** <sup>21</sup> **"But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." [John 3:17-21]**

You see, people do not believe in Christ; they reject the gospel, not because they do not have enough evidence as we will see. They reject the gospel because they love their sin and they do not want it exposed. And people get offended when you expose their religious sin, their religious sin. They get very offended. So these Jews' deeds were evil in Nazareth; and they were not believing Christ; they were very evil, very evil. I am confident it kept them from Christ. I am confident they loved their sin because that is what Scripture says. Do not fool yourself with righteous deeds apart from a changed and cleansed heart. Listen to what Jesus says in John 5 to the religious. John 5, verse 39:

<sup>39</sup> **"You search the Scriptures** (you are really religious. You even got your Bible out), **because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me;** <sup>40</sup> **and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life. [John 5:39-40]**

That is the problem. An unwillingness because of sin. A love of a sin. People do not want to come to Jesus because they do not want to give up their sin. They love it! They do not want it exposed. They love it! Some of you are unwilling to give up your sin because you love it. You love being the lord of your life. You love doing your own will. You love righteousness apart from faith in Christ, a self-righteousness. Do not fool yourself with religiousness and "church-iosity." The reality is you are unwilling to come to Christ that your sin would be exposed, that you could be forgiven. The basis for unbelief in Scripture is rejection of God's Word, and thus rejection of Christ. God says this. You reject it; you do not believe it. And in similar fashion, God uses His Word to bring about faith, doesn't He? Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of Christ. But we need our sins exposed, need them exposed. We need to call it what it is. We need to realize the eternal consequences for our sin. And then Jesus is the only Savior who will forgive you.

Let me read you a couple passages, things we have already seen in the book of Matthew and portions we looked at in Mark. Matthew 10:28 and I will read it for you.

<sup>28</sup> **"And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. [Matthew 10:28]**

Fear God. Mark 8:36:

<sup>36</sup> **"For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit His soul** (forfeit his own soul)? <sup>37</sup> **"For what shall a man give in exchange for His soul? [Mark 8:36-37]**

And then the gracious words of the living God, the graciousness of the living God to those who had rejected Him. Matthew 11:28:

<sup>28</sup> **"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden** (you are religiously weary. Your religiousness is wearing you out), **and I will give you rest.** <sup>29</sup> **"Take My yoke upon you,**

# Matthew 13:53-58

Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011

**and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls.<sup>30</sup> "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light." [Matthew 11:28-30]**

Now there may be some of you who say, "I believe. I am not in that category. I do not love my sin. I am following Jesus." There are those who are deceived, by the way, who will believe it up to the judgment. They will believe they were following Jesus. And Jesus will say to them, as we see in Matthew 7:21:

**<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but He who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. (That is obeying the Word of God. Is your life a consistent, habitual obedience to God because you have been changed on the inside by Christ? He says) <sup>22</sup> "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup> "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'" [Matthew 7:21-23]**

Folks, the real cause of underlying unbelief is rejection of Christ, rejection of the Word of God. It is not because they were familiar with Jesus; it is because they rejected His words.

Now I believe we are going to see next in our passage back in Matthew 13, the diversion of unbelief, that unbelievers set up these smoke screens to divert from the truth that is at hand. We see this here. Matthew, chapter 13, verse 54: "<sup>54</sup> And coming to His home town He *began* teaching them in their synagogue, so that they became astonished, and said, 'Where *did* this man *get* this wisdom, and *these* miraculous powers? <sup>55</sup> Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? <sup>56</sup> And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then *did* this man *get* all these things?'"

What is their response? If you read through quickly, you might think it is not that big of a deal. It is a horrifying response! They are not saying "We are sinful, we need the Savior! The One who has fulfilled all the prophecy, the "One who is standing in our midst" proclaiming that He is the Messiah. They are not saying that. They are saying, "Is this the carpenter's son? Where did He get these powers? How can this be?" They are ignoring the obvious. The word *where* - you can translate it. It should be translated *whence*. We do not use *whence* but *whence* is a better word to describe it. *Whence* actually speaks of origin. From what origin did He get this wisdom that He is proclaiming and these miraculous powers? Where did they come from? What origin? Boy, that is an amazing and horrifying question that they would ask at this point, revealing their hard-heartedness and their blindness. Where does anyone get power like that? There is no other place. We see that wisdom was from God and His power is from God because He was God in human flesh.

Remember the man born blind in John, chapter 9, where Jesus had healed him and there was this debate about how this happened and where it came from. Let's turn there for a second to John, chapter 9, and I would read the whole chapter because it is a marvelous discourse, but we do not have time. I am just going to read a portion of it. And Jesus had healed this man who was born blind, He has healed him of his blindness. And so we come into the story a little late, for time's sake. John 9:24:

## Matthew 13:53-58

Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011

**<sup>24</sup> So a second time they called the man who had been blind (it is the Pharisees), and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner." (They are saying Jesus is a sinner.) <sup>25</sup> He therefore answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup> They said therefore to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> He answered them (this is the blind man speaking now), "I told you already, and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?" <sup>28</sup> And they reviled him, and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> "We know that God has spoken to Moses; but as for this man, we do not know where He is from." <sup>30</sup> The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes." [John 9:24-30]**

In Nazareth, they were ignoring the obvious. Great wisdom from God and miraculous powers, and they are saying, "Where did He get it from?" It is a diversionary question, as we will see. And in John 9, we see here very clearly again:

**<sup>31</sup> "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him. <sup>32</sup> "Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. (It has never, ever happened.) <sup>33</sup> "If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." <sup>34</sup> They answered and said to him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they put him out (that is out of the synagogue). <sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had put him out; and finding him (this is wonderful - I have to just finish this. He hears about the guy that He healed that he has been put out of the synagogue, and Jesus goes and finds him), He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> He answered and said, "And who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" (There is the right answer.) <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you." <sup>38</sup> And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him. [John 9:31-38]**

You see, what Jesus was doing on the earth was unmistakable; it was unmistakably by God. His wisdom and the miraculous were unmistakably by God. And when you hear these questions, "Where did He get these powers," it is a horrifying question to be spoken in the midst of what Christ was saying and doing by the power of the Holy Spirit. What a sad question! Their hearts are hard. They have closed their eyes as Jesus has said; they are unwilling to repent. And some of you are like this. You hear the Truth of the Word of God, but you have these ridiculous side questions which may have a basis in reality, but they are a diversion from the Truth concerning Christ.

Look at the question; He says here, verse 55, (after miraculous), "Where did this man get this wisdom, and these miraculous powers? Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? <sup>56</sup>And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" Here we see their familiarity with Jesus led them to divert from what He was saying. Do you get the sinfulness of this? God in human flesh is proclaiming to them the

# Matthew 13:53-58

Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011

Truth. The Spirit of God is working miracles through Christ, and they are diverting it to “We know this guy! Where did he get all this?”

And let me digress for a moment. The Catholic church is full of heretical doctrine and lies. And one of them comes from ignoring this passage. They say that Mary was a perpetual virgin. No, she was not! Jesus had brothers and sisters. We see it right here in plain, clear teaching. They are lying to you. They are lying. People say that she was sinless. That is not true either. They are lying to you there. Mary proclaims herself that God is her Savior. Sinless people do not need saviors from their sins. Full of heretical lies and doctrine. And if you love your religious sin, you are going to ignore that. You are going to want to stay and say it is okay. But our passage shows it is not.

Back to our passage. We see these diversions. This is not what people in cults do. This is not what people who do not want to hear the Word do. If you have ever shared the Gospel with someone and they start turning the questions away onto all sorts of different areas, rather than believing the Truth (again as I shared) you will inevitably hear the questions, “What about the person out in the boonies that never heard the Gospel?” Folks, that is a diversion. What about you? God tells you to repent. God says there is punishment for sins. But He sent His Son to die for your sins, that if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, repenting of sin, you will be saved. That is the issue - not someone here or someone there or I do not like the way the preacher preaches or I do not like the way Christians act. Whatever those diversionary things are, it is an evidence of unbelief. These were unbelievers focusing on “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son?” Those things. It is really awful. People who do not want to accept the clear teaching of the Word want more and more evidence. They want more and more explanations. Yet God calls you to give up what you love. It is a diversion because they do not believe, and it is very sad.

Well, what is the awful result? Let’s take a look down a little farther here. <sup>55</sup>Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? <sup>56</sup>And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things? (And then look at verse 57) <sup>57</sup>And they took offense at Him.” That was their response. They were offended. And maybe some of you are offended by what I have said so far. That is an evidence that your heart is not right. They took offense – the word is *skandalizo*. It referred to a stick in which bait was placed on that an animal that was careless would come and touch that stick and would be trapped. It speaks of something that would block or impede our way, something that we would fall into. It is often translated *stumbling*. It is something that gets in the way. They took offense at Him and it was continual, habitual – that is the tense. They were continually offended as He was continually teaching. They were not responding. That is the response of unbelief! That is the response of those on their way to hell!

Remember we saw back in chapter 11 where Jesus said, “Blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me.” *Skandalizo*. You see the reality is you are either going to be saved by Christ or you are going to stumble over Christ. And if you reject the Gospel, if you are offended at it, if you are diverting to all these other things, you are in great peril. We see Paul share this in the New Testament. Turn with me to Romans, chapter 9. He is talking about Israel here and their stumbling. They stumbled. Romans, chapter 9, verse 27:

## Matthew 13:53-58

Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011

***27 And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, it is the remnant that will be saved; 28 for the Lord will execute His word upon the earth, thoroughly and quickly." 29 And just as Isaiah foretold, "Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left to us a posterity, We would have become as Sodom, and would have resembled Gomorrah." 30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 just as it is written, "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed." [Romans 9:27-33]***

You see, it is either your works or it is the work of Christ. And if it is your works that get you to heaven, whether it is Christ's works – whatever in that sense – if it is what you do, what you did, then Christ is in the way. He is in the way because He calls upon you to repent of your sin and believe apart from works.

1 Peter, chapter 2, verse 4:

***4 And coming to Him as to a living stone (speaking of Christ), rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also (this is the church), as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (What a great description of the church that we should be doing. And He says) 6 For this is contained in Scripture: "Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed." 7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, "The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone," 8 and, "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed. [1 Peter 2:4-8]***

Back in our passage, "...they took offense at Him." They were offended by His call for them to repent. They were offended by Him revealing their religious hypocrisy. They were offended by Him declaring Himself to be the Messiah. They were offended and they would stumble over Him. Those who would not ultimately believe would stumble to their doom. It is all about Jesus Christ. It is all about Jesus Christ and your response to Him will determine where you spend your eternity, whether you spend it with Him forever or whether you spend it in punishment for sin. And, friend, if you have been offended today because of the Word I have shared from the Scriptures, then it is an evidence you do not believe. You are in deep trouble; you are in deep trouble. If you are thinking of other things like "I do not like the way he has his hair" or "It sounds too loud" or "The church sure did not sing the songs I like" or all these other things, that is an evidence you are in unbelief. "How could He say things about the Catholic church? How could he do that?" It is all diversion. And I want to ask you, have you been offended by someone lately who has told you the Word? If so, it is an evidence you are in unbelief right now. But

# Matthew 13:53-58

Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011

God is a gracious God. If you confess your sin, acknowledge it before Him, you turn to Him and believe, He will save you.

Well, what is God's response to their unbelief? What do we see back in our passage? What is His response to these in His own home town? Verse 57, He says, "<sup>57</sup>And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them (this is in contrast: *but* Jesus said to them), "A prophet is not without honor except in his home town, and in his own household." And if you go to the book of Mark, chapter 6, Mark adds in the term *relatives* also. "<sup>58</sup>And He did not do many miracles because of their unbelief." In contrast to their offense, He says a prophet is not accepted. (He is one who speaks for God.) In Deuteronomy 18:15, there would be a prophet who would arise, speaking of Christ, but we know He is more than a prophet. We know He is more than a priest. We know He is more than a king. We know He is also God in human flesh. And I do not think this is just a statement here to comfort us about the rejection of those in unbelief in our families and in our own home towns. I think He explains the fact that He is not being honored by them. That is what He is using it for – to show the fact they are not honoring Him. "A prophet is not without honor except in his own home town, his own household." Unbelievers on their way to hell do not honor God, and they did not honor Christ. God was in their midst; they did not honor Him as God. Even though they were familiar with Him, beyond that familiarity was the fact He was God in their presence telling them the Truth. And they rejected it!

Now before you use this passage as an excuse not to minister to your relatives – saying, "Well, the Lord Jesus pulled away from them" – or not minister to those in your home town or whatever it might be, remember Jesus did come to them; He did proclaim the Gospel to them. He did it back when we saw His first visit; He is doing it here.

Well, what did He do in response to their unbelief? Verse 58: "And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief." The Lord Jesus was perfectly revealing His perfect discernment as He retracted from them. What a sad thing! He stopped. We see in the book of Mark that He basically only healed a few people, but He did not do the miraculous. The book of Mark in chapter 6 – same story – verse 5:

**<sup>5</sup> And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands upon a few sick people and healed them.** (And it says in the book of Mark) **And He wondered (marveled) at their unbelief. [Mark 6:5]**

God in human flesh marveling at the hardness of the hearts of man. I believe our Lord exemplified His commands earlier. Go back to Matthew, chapter 7, verse 6. The Lord Jesus says,

**<sup>6</sup> "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine** (this glorious Gospel that is hidden to mankind, that is revealed in Christ. It is glorious; it is more valuable than anything. Do not give it to people who will trample it over), **lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces."** [Matthew 7:6]

In His instructions to His disciples, a little farther on in Matthew 10:14:

# Matthew 13:53-58

Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011

***“<sup>14</sup> And whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake off the dust of your feet. <sup>15</sup> Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.” [Matthew 10:14-15]***

We are to be discerning when we share. And if the people are diverting the way and the truth, if they are talking about things that have nothing to do with the person of Christ, if they are not genuinely interested - someone who comes, “I really want to know where it says He is God” and they are really interested. “I want to see that. I want to see what the Word says” - versus “I do not know if He is God. I think He is just...” You know: there is a difference. Jesus did not do many miracles because of their unbelief. And brother and sister, I think very often we divert the Lord’s time to people who are in unbelief, hardened unbelief and we waste this time because we are not discerning. We need to be discerning. Pray for open doors; use discernment. When they use diversionary things to turn away from the Gospel, just be quiet. Do not get into those arguments, those apologetic arguments. When they are ready to hear the Word, pray for those open doors. And friend, for those of you who do not know Christ, recognize that when you reject the Truth that Jesus brings, that you are sinful and you need a savior, when you divert it to somewhere else, it is an evidence of your unbelief. And God, at sometime, will allow you to be hardened in your unbelief. If you reject the clear teaching, He will allow you to be hardened. He will allow you to go your own way. He will even allow Satan to blind your mind. 2 Corinthians 4:3;

***<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,<sup>4</sup> in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. [2 Corinthians 4:3-4]***

When you do not believe, God allows your mind to be blinded. Satan blinds it and you are just not going to see. That is a terrible, horrifying thing.

We see the same reality in 2 Thessalonians concerning the tribulation time at the end when the Lord is coming. We see because people did not “...love the truth so as to be saved.” (2 Thessalonians 2:10)

***<sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false,<sup>12</sup> in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. [2 Thessalonians 2:11-12]***

If you reject the clear Gospel, God will let you be hardened on your way to judgment. If you find yourself today thinking of excuses not to hear the main point of what I said (that Jesus Christ died for your sins, rose from the dead, if you turn to Him and call for salvation, you will be saved), if you find yourself thinking of other excuses, it is an evidence you are in deep trouble. I am going to finish with this passage. It is in Isaiah, chapter 55. God says through Isaiah:

# Matthew 13:53-58

Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011

***<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. [Isaiah 55:6-7]***

Seek the Lord while He is near. Turn from your sin to the living God; He will forgive you.

So then today we saw the Lord Jesus come to His home town where He grew up. And we have seen a picture of unbelief based on the rejection of God's Word. It has diversionary questions that are not important in relationship to what Jesus was saying. We saw that in unbelief, one evidence of that is being offended and they were offended at Christ who is now a stumbling block for them. God will let you go your own way when you come to this point; He will just let you go, let you go. What will it be? Will you stumble over Christ or will you be saved by Him?

You have heard the Truth. God is a gracious God; He will forgive you. He will abundantly pardon. If not, all you have left is punishment for sin and Jesus took that instead, in your place if you trust Him. What about us, brother and sister? Do our actions reflect those who do not know at Christ at times? Maybe a brother or a sister comes pointing at something in your life and there is a diversionary issue. "I do not like the way they have been with me. They did not smile at me the last time I was in church." Or "they seem to be ignoring me." All these diversions rather than the Truth of what the brother or sister might be telling you for your good. Are you diverting away from the Truth? Do you get offended at them? Folks, that is sin.

We found the most valuable thing; that is a relationship with Christ. He has revealed it to us. And this God who took on human flesh grew up in a town. As a small boy, He submitted to His parents. He lived the perfect life and He died for our sins. He understands. Kids, He understands. He was a kid – perfect kid, but He was a kid, too. Trust Him.

Lastly, brother and sister, you think it is hard being rejected by your family. The Lord understands. His family actually did reject Him. His brothers rejected Him and it says in John 7:5, "They didn't believe." But praise the Lord, in Acts 1:14, we see they did come to faith. We need to be discerning, brother and sister. We need to not cast our pearls before swine. When we share the Gospel and questions start going off the other side, just prayerfully back away. When someone is being pierced and wants to hear the glorious Truth, give them the wonderful Truth. But do not continue in those useless discussions that lead to these fruitless things which reveal someone is hardened in their sin. God is a gracious God and we see His example here even in the midst of His own home town.

## Prayer

Father, thank You for Your Word. Thank you for Your gracious warnings in Your Word. I thank You that Your Son Jesus came, that He still, although His own home town wanted to kill Him, He came back and

## *Matthew 13:53-58*

*Preached by Greg Lundstedt at Vancouver Bible Fellowship Church on 7/17/2011*

He shared with them again and He taught them. And Lord, our hearts are grieved over the response as they diverted away and they were offended at Your Son. I pray for anyone here who does not know You, who has taken offense for whatever reason. I pray that they would confess that sin, they would turn to You, acknowledging it is sin, that they would recognize that You call upon them to repent of sin and that if they are willing to give up this sinful, wicked life and be forgiven by Jesus, Your Son, they will be saved. I pray for that. And Father, for those of us believers, I pray we would be more discerning. We are so guilty of too often just pouring out Your Word when people are unwilling to listen. I pray we would be discerning. We would not allow Your Word to be trampled over – this glorious Truth. But Lord, I also pray that we would bring it out as good stewards, bring out Your truths, Your treasures – old and new – as You lead us to do so. We pray You give us opportunities. I pray for our families, Lord God, those in our families who do not know You. I pray You give us wisdom and discernment for open doors, for the Word. I pray we would not get caught up in diversions, but that we would simply share the Truth when You want us to. Lord, thank You for Your Word. I pray we would just trust You and we would do what You say. In Your precious name, amen.

Available online at: <http://www.vancouverbible.org>

COPYRIGHT (C) 2013 Vancouver Bible Fellowship

You may reproduce this sermon transcript in its entirety for  
non-commercial purposes in accordance with

Vancouver Bible Fellowship's Copyright Policy (<http://www.vancouverbible.org/copyright.pdf>).