

Lesson D2: Prophets Without Honor

Matthew 13:53-14:12

I. THE REJECTION OF JESUS IN NAZARETH (13:53-58; Mk 6:1-6)

A. The Nuances of Unbelief

1. Astonishment (54)—*they acknowledged His wisdom and mighty works*

2. Offence (55-57)—Your exaltation *diminishes us!*

a. The Contempt of Familiarity

b. The Insecurity of Pride (Phil 2:6-8)

c. The Resentment of Success

3. Rejection—refusing to recognize the authority of Jesus

B. The Consequences of Unbelief (58)—**self-inflicted poverty**

1. Unbelief prevents miracles. They disqualified themselves.

2. Rejecting Jesus is rejecting the wisdom and power of God. (1 Cor 1:24)

II. THE DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (14:1-12; Mk 6:14-29)—last and greatest OT prophet

A. The Job of a Prophet

1. The Duty—bring the word of God to people, confront sin, speak truth to power

a. An honor (5:11-12)—God's spokesman

b. A challenge (Jer 1:17-19; Acts 5:29; 2 Tim 4:1-5)—not for the faint of heart!

2. The Danger—*Occupational Hazards of a prophet*

- a. **Offending People**—usually not popular
- b. **Retaliation of the Offended**—serving up your head on a platter

B. The Villains—a web of depravity (Lev 18:16-20)

1. **The Wrath of a King**—Don't make me look bad to others; don't challenge my authority!
2. **The Grudge of a Queen**—Don't make me look bad to myself; don't threaten my self-image!
3. **The Manipulation of a Girl**—I can get what I want from men; watch me!

III. THE RESURRECTION OF JOHN (14:2)

A. Where is Justice?

1. **Judgment is coming**. (Isa 26:21)—Faith allows the believer to see beyond this life.
2. **Conscience haunts**. (Rom 2:15-16)—Deep down, he knows that judgment is coming.
3. **The Witness of the Righteous Remains** (2 Tim 2:9)—Truth will yet bear fruit, and great will be your reward in heaven!

B. Where is Jesus? (14:1, 12)

Jesus is the One who puts the injustice and evil of this dark world into perspective for us.