

Practical Principles from the Parables

"Recognizing the Obstacles in Overcoming Unbelief"

Matthew 13:53-58

Sermon Series Summary

Have you ever found the parables confusing or difficult to understand? If so, then you are not alone. Many people have trouble understanding these teachings but Jesus gives the answer to decode these parables and discover practical principles to live out your faith in modern times. Join us as we begin a new series that will give you new insight into practical principles of faithfulness as we study the parables found in Matthew 13.

Series Theme Passage

Matthew 13:16 (ESV) - But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

Main Text

Matthew 13:53-58 (ESV) – ⁵³ And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, ⁵⁴ and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? ⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" ⁵⁷ And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor

except in his hometown and in his own household." 58 And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

Big Idea – Unbelief Blurs Reality and Bolsters Rebellion

Three Outcomes of Unbelief

Outcome #1 - Unbelief Blinds You to Truth and Fills You With Bitterness

Matthew 13:53-54 (ESV) – ⁵³ And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, ⁵⁴ and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?

■ **Key Point** – The first outcome that we must examine deals with spiritual blindness. Unbelief in the Lord blinds you to His truth and fills your heart and life with bitterness. Turn to Him today and replace your bitterness with joy.

Outcome #2 - Unbelief Poisons Life and Hardens Your Heart

Matthew 13:55-57 (ESV) –55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" 57a And they took offense at him...

■ **Key Point** – The second outcome that we must examine deals with the hardened heart. It is a fact that unbelief poisons your life physically and spiritually. A hardened heart will result in a ruined life for now and eternity.

Outcome #3 - Unbelief Restricts God's Blessings and Destroys Life

Matthew 13:57-58 (ESV) – ⁵⁷ And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." ⁵⁸ And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

■ **Key Point** – The final outcome that we examine deals with the blessing of the Lord. Unbelief and a lack of trust in the Lord restricts the blessing of the Lord in your life. The ultimate result is that unbelief results in eternal ruin of your life.

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV) – Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Challenge:

Remind yourself that your responsibility, before the Lord, is to apply the truths you have discovered in the Word of God. As you reflect on this message, help others turn their disbelief into belief by...

- Inviting others to the Easter Service
- Inviting others to Bible study
- Asking others how you could pray for them