

Weaving the Word

Crazy Uncle Jesus

August 6, 2017

Welcome to where we're learning to Love the Lord without conditional expectations!



If you grew up with Jesus, would you have been His friend?

Jesus' big day ended the way it began:

The crowd was amazed ... But the Pharisees said, "It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons." Jesus left there and went to **his hometown**, [Nazareth] accompanied by his disciples. – Matthew 9:33-34; Mark 6:1 NIV



He's going to those who are the closest to Him and yet the farthest from Him. Just the day before, His family came to *seize him* and were forbidden from entering His house. (Mk 3:21; 31-35)



Do you know the one place *Jesus* was forbidden to enter?

Home. Nazareth. He was driven out.



I don't think "tourist Nazareth" is the *actual* Nazareth. **I think this is. Mount Nitai.** That's the view from a hillside by Capernaum.

They drove Him outside the city, implying a wall. That has no wall; but, this one sure does. It kept the kids away from the cliffs. And, **they led Him out to the mountain projection.** That has no cliff; this one's *all cliffs!* They led Him to **the mountain projection the city was built on.** No mountain. Big mountain. Nazareth means the *Guarded One* or *Guarding One*. And, only This one contains the **ruins of a city, a citadel, and two watchtowers.**



When Jesus' family heard He was in Capernaum, **they arrived before brunch. This one is six miles away.** That one is *fifty*. Leaving Nazareth, He went *down* to Capernaum. (Mt 4:13; Lk 4:31)



This is the only known site that fits every Biblical detail of Nazareth.



And, according to the "World of Jewish Heritage" online: "The ruins [on Mt Nitai] are unexcavated and their identity remains unknown. ... Until an excavation is performed and evidence is unearthed, one can only speculate."



And when Jesus' family shows up, **He doesn't just ignore 'em, He shuts 'em out.** Bars the door. Like when the doubters came to the Ark *after* the rain. **Says they're not family.** And, *He's right.* That's how excommunication works. **We can be close in proximity while distant in relationship.**

Some of the hardest hearts to crack are those *in* the church; so inoculated with such a steady drip of God's Word for so long, that they become nearly *immune* to its light and life and glory.

So, Jesus goes home to confront those closest-and-farthest about their wrong-headed actions, and His rightly-harsh response. But, after that cliff incident He takes 84+ disciples/bodyguards.

I'm actually *glad* Jesus had *such* a dysfunctional family!

It's further proof He was tested in every way just as we are.

Coming to his hometown, [a few days before the next Sabbath, to sleep in His old bed, eat His mom's home cooking, and have a heart-to-heart with those closest to Him] When the Sabbath came, he began teaching *the people in their synagogue*, and **they were amazed.** [As in "stunned". That He had the nerve to return. And (knowing that they know all about His rejection by their revered religious authorities), that He has the nerve to come peddling His crazy, demon-inspired-and-empowered message and magic] "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, and these miraculous powers?" [It's God or the devil. And, which will seem more likely to those who watched Him grow up?] **Isn't this the carpenter?** ["He didn't study under the rabbis; they're all *against* Him. How can we believe that He's the *Son of God?*"] **Isn't this the carpenter's son? – Matthew 13:54-55a; Mark 6:2-3 NIV**



New rabbis never taught on their own merit.

Only after years of earning an honorable reputation were they allowed diverging with their own commentary.

But, one day this *carpenter* lays down His tools and then lays down the Law as though He had a monopoly on truth.

Isn't this Mary's son and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters here with us? – Matthew 13:54-55b-56a; Mark 6:4 NIV

There's something being said without being said: "Isn't this *Mary's* son and *a carpenter's son* (At the time, construction was booming around Nazareth); and, isn't one of His *younger* brothers named "Joseph". "Sure looks like Joseph senior didn't want to claim the kid as his own!"

And, saying that His siblings are "here with us" or "among us" means they've integrated into the community ... *and agree with 'em.*

Where then did this man get all these things?" And **they** [His four brothers' and their wives, all His sisters and their husbands, and His many nieces and nephews, and aunts and uncles, and former friends, and neighbors, and old bullies, fellow construction workers, and father's whose daughters He'd turned down for marriage, and those who'd changed His diapers and wiped His runny nose, and everyone who had anyone who had suffered any disease or death, because He had done nothing – and now they believe He could've if He would've, but He didn't. And **THEY**] took offense at him. – Matthew 13:56b-57 NIV

Imagine the talk at the family dinners about crazy Uncle Jesus!

[Moses said] These commandments ... are to be upon your hearts. ... Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands ... Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. – Deuteronomy 6:6-9 NIV

Can you even imagine? Young Yeshua cutting up His Scrolls and herding Post-It note passages onto every vacant wall-space and door He can nail 'em to; while talking *incessantly* to *anyone* who showed *any interest*. **Would you have been His friend?**

Or, would the real Jesus have driven you up the wall? Not that you would've *disliked* Him, or been *mean* to Him, or anything; but, maybe just ducked into a doorway to avoid being cornered.

"We all love the Bible; but, *my goodness*, He treats it like His *life* depends on it!" "Ever see Him show romantic interest in a *girl*?" "For Heaven's sake, it's like He's *married* to those Scrolls!"

But Jesus said to them, "Only **in his hometown**, [with the old gang] **among his relatives** and **in his own house** [where His own mother and brothers came to take Him by force] is a prophet without honor." – Matthew 13:57b; Mark 6:4 NIV

It goes back to the beginning of His ministry, a year earlier.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit ... and everyone praised him. [Until] He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant ["Thank you, Jason." "You're welcome, Uncle Jesus."] and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words [of healing and good news to the poor] that came from his lips. [After so many loved ones suffered and died "While all along this kid could'a saved 'em, He's ready to make it right," and they're gonna get what He owes 'em.] "Isn't this **Joseph's son**?" they asked. [Offering their eager, conditional, acceptance, expressed through ignorant rejection of His virgin birth! "Isn't this Joseph's son?" Magnanimously declaring their willingness to overlook His disgraceful pedigree. But, "Hey, if the Kid's gonna

heal our sick and line our poor pockets, I say WELCOME HOME, Son!”] Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself! [“Charity begins at home!”] **Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.**” [But, He knows this kind of fervor doesn’t come from faith, just familiarity and conditional expectations] “I tell you the truth,” he continued, [“Your lips draw near, but your hearts aren’t right”] “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. I assure you that there were many **widows** [like Jesus’ mother] in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for **three and a half years** [the length of Jesus’ ministry] ... Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to **a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon.** [And, *she* turns against Him until He raises her only son from the dead (1 Kings 17:7-24)] And there were many in Israel with **leprosy** in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—**only Naaman the Syrian.**” [And *he* was outraged when Elisha didn’t meet his expectations; although, he had a change of heart and was healed (2 Kings 5:1-15)] **All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this.** [‘Cause He ain’t bein’ *subtle*. He’s saying their “hope” is actually a prideful, self-centered, sense of entitlement, that’ll turn to anger the moment God doesn’t deliver on *their terms*. So] They got up, **drove him out of the town** [“We’ll teach You to say we’ll get up and drive You out of town the moment you disappoint us!”] and took him to the **brow of the hill** [lit. projection of mountain] **on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff.** But [when push came to shove, everyone expected someone else to ... *shove*. So] he walked right through the crowd [slowly; with lots of eye contact] and went on his way. Then **he went down to Capernaum**, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. [Anyone who’d listen and put up with His Bible *passion* ... *which is the only way anyone is every really healed*] – Luke 4:14-31 NIV

All those years they hadn’t really been avoiding *Jesus*; they’d been avoiding the one and only *True* that heals our *Deep-within*.

And he did not do many miracles there He *could not* do any miracles there, except lay his hands on *a few* sick people and heal them. *because of their lack of faith*. And *he was amazed* at their *lack of faith*. – Matthew 13:58; Mark 6:5-6 NIV

He molds *you* or you mold *Him*; but, at His house will *you* get in?

His tribe has spoken. *He’s out* – *which means they are*.

Because, if He can’t enter *your* house, you can’t enter *His*.

He’s not getting even or settling a score; it’s just *true*.

If our heart’s not open to Him, we can’t enter His presence.

So, open your heart and welcome Him in!

This is His Place!