

Christ Church sermon questions 27 January 2019

When faith is lacking - Matthew 13:53-58

Warm up: Talk about when you have heard the phrase 'a prophet is without honour' used in other contexts. Is it a statement of fact, an excuse, or a criticism?

Read Matthew 13:53-58.

1. What stands out to you from this passage and what questions does it raise?
2. The people of Nazareth 'talked themselves out of believing'. What excuses did they use?
3. How would you describe the attitudes of the people of Nazareth? How do they compare with your own attitudes?
4. Can you think of an incident where you have found yourself surprised by someone's gifts/abilities because you knew them in a different context?
5. Have you ever 'talked yourself out of believing' something that God might have been saying to you?
6. In Mark's account of the same incident we are told that Jesus was amazed at their lack of faith (cross reference Matthew 11:20-24). How do you respond to these verses? Do you feel rebuked, challenged, reassured or something else?
7. Why do you think Jesus could not do any miracles in his own town? Is there anything for us in this verse?
8. How would you complete the sentence 'When faith is lacking.....'?
9. How might you respond to this passage?