JESUS AND JOHN REJECTED

Matthew 13:53–14:12

Key Verse: 13:58

1. Where did Jesus go, what did he do there, what was the initial response, and why? (53,54)
2. What did people start asking themselves about Jesus? (55–57a). Why do you think they did this? What did Jesus say to them? (57b) What lesson should we learn from Jesus’ rejection by his hometown people? (1Co4:1; 2Co5:16; 1Th2:13)
3. Read verse 58. What can we learn here about how God works? How can we see things with the eyes of faith and create a believing environment around us?
4. Who was Herod, and how did he respond to Jesus and his ministry? (14:1,2) Review how John the Baptist had prepared the way for Jesus (3:1–12) and note when he had been imprisoned (4:12). Review also what Jesus had said about John and about how people were responding to their ministries (11:7–19). Why are people like this?
5. Before killing him, why had Herod arrested John the Baptist and kept him in prison? (3–5) What happened that finally caused John’s death? (6–12) Why was Herodias so determined to eliminate him? (3,4) How could she have responded to John’s rebuke? (3:2; 4:17) In light of this, why should we expect rejection and persecution? (cf. 5:10–12)