

# Matthew 13:57

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

## Analysis

**And they were offended in him** (καὶ ἐσκανδαλίζοντο ἐν αὐτῷ)—The verb σκανδαλίζω (skandalizō) means 'to cause to stumble, to take offense.' The imperfect tense indicates ongoing, repeated offense. They stumbled over the σκάνδαλον (skandalon, 'stumbling block') of the incarnation—that God would come in such humble form. This anticipates Paul's teaching that Christ crucified is 'a stumbling block to Jews' (1 Corinthians 1:23). Familiarity bred not faith but contempt.

**A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house** (οὐκ ἔστιν προφήτης ἄτιμος εἰ μὴ ἐν τῇ πατρίδι καὶ ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ αὐτοῦ)—This proverbial saying appears in all four Gospels (Mark 6:4; Luke 4:24; John 4:44), indicating Jesus repeated it. The double exception (πατρίς 'homeland' and οἰκία 'household') shows rejection at both community and family levels (John 7:5). The word ἄτιμος ('without honor, dishonored') is the opposite of the τιμή (honor) prophets typically received. Jesus identifies Himself as the ultimate Prophet, greater than Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15-18), yet rejected by His own.

## Historical Context

Old Testament prophets frequently faced rejection (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos), often most severely from their own people. Jesus's experience at Nazareth paralleled Israel's pattern of killing the prophets (Matthew 23:29-37). This proverb was

apparently common in the ancient world, attested in various forms in Greek and Latin literature, but Jesus applies it to Himself as the ultimate Prophet. Luke 4:16-30 provides more detail, showing they attempted to kill Him by throwing Him off a cliff.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. Why is it often harder to witness to family and longtime friends than to strangers?
2. How does Jesus's rejection by His hometown prepare you for similar rejection when you faithfully proclaim truth?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἐσκανδαλίζοντο	ἐν	αὐτοῦ	ό	δὲ	Ἰησοῦς	εἶπεν	
<b>And</b>	<b>they were offended</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>him</b>	<small>G3588</small>	<b>But</b>	<b>Jesus</b>	<b>said</b>	
G2532	G4624	G1722	G846		G1161	G2424	G2036	
αὐτοῦ	Οὐκ	ἔστιν	προφήτης	ἄτιμος	εἰ	μὴ	ἐν	τῇ
<b>him</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>is</b>	<b>A prophet</b>	<b>without honour</b>	<small>G1487</small>	<small>G3361</small>	<b>in</b>	<small>G3588</small>
G846	G3756	G2076	G4396	G820			G1722	
πατρίδι	αὐτοῦ	καὶ	ἐν	τῇ	οἰκίᾳ	αὐτοῦ		
<b>country</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>And</b>	<b>in</b>	<small>G3588</small>	<b>house</b>	<b>him</b>		
G3968	G846	G2532	G1722		G3614	G846		

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 4:44** (Prophecy): For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country.

**Matthew 11:6** (Parallel theme): And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

**Luke 4:24** (Prophecy): And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

**John 6:61** (References Jesus): When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

**Isaiah 53:3** (Parallel theme): He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**Isaiah 49:7** (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

**Isaiah 8:14** (Parallel theme): And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

**John 6:42** (References Jesus): And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

**Luke 7:23** (Parallel theme): And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.