

Matthew 13:58

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Analysis

And he did not many mighty works there (καὶ οὐκ ἐποίησεν ἐκεῖ δυνάμεις πολλάς)—Mark 6:5 intensifies this: 'He could do no mighty work there' (οὐκ ἔδύνατο...ποιῆσαι οὐδεμίαν δύναμιν), except healing a few sick. This doesn't limit Christ's power but shows His refusal to perform miracles where they would be spurned. The δυνάμεις (dynameis, 'mighty works, miracles') testified to His messianic identity (Matthew 11:20-24), but without receptive faith, miracles produce only greater judgment (Luke 10:13-15).

Because of their unbelief (διὰ τὴν ἀπιστίαν αὐτῶν)—The noun ἀπιστία (apistia) means 'faithlessness, refusal to believe' despite adequate evidence. This wasn't mere ignorance but willful rejection. Miracles don't create faith; they confirm faith and accredit messengers (John 10:37-38). Where unbelief reigns, Christ often withdraws demonstration of power—not because He cannot act, but because He will not cast pearls before swine (Matthew 7:6). Unbelief limits not God's power but our reception of His blessing.

Historical Context

This episode marks a pivotal shift in Jesus's ministry. After Nazareth's rejection (ca. AD 28-29), Jesus intensified focus on the Twelve (Matthew 10) and began teaching more privately. The pattern of Jewish rejection and Gentile reception becomes increasingly prominent. Nazareth's unbelief despite Jesus's upbringing

among them demonstrated the depth of human depravity and the necessity of divine grace for faith (John 6:44).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does persistent unbelief in your life limit your experience of Christ's transforming power?
2. Why doesn't God overwhelm human unbelief with undeniable miracles if He desires all to be saved (2 Peter 3:9)?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οὐκ	ἐποίησεν	ἐκεῖ	δυνάμεις	πολλὰς	διὰ	τὴν
And	not	he did	there	mighty works	many	because	G3588
G2532	G3756	G4160	G1563	G1411	G4183	G1223	

ἀπιστίαν αὐτῶν

unbelief **of their**

G570 G846

Additional Cross-References

Romans 11:20 (Parallel theme): Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: