

**1) Unbelief can diminish the works of God. (13:53-58)**

The crowds had a hard time believing in Jesus because he seemed so human to them. Is it hard for you to believe that Jesus was more than a man and that his message was authoritative because he is God?

Jesus indicates the more familiar you are with a messenger the harder it becomes to honor him by believing his message. Why is this true? In your context where can you identify this danger?

Have you ever been disappointed that those closest to you reject your attempts to share the gospel with them? How do you handle it?

Sometimes God works in spite of our lack of faith. Tell about a time like that.

Many times God withholds his work until he finds faith in us. What things do you believe God might want to do if you had exercised radical faith?

Make a list of things you are believing God to do in the next 6 months.

**2) Belief can decapitate the man of God. (14:1-13)**

There are levels of belief. Evaluate what level you find yourself:

- 1) Receive the Word
- 2) Believe the Word
- 3) Obey the Word
- 4) Share the Word
- 5) Press it personally and practically into the lives of those who need it at the risk of losing your head.

John's defense of God's design for marriage was bold and loving. What are the consequences of living outside God's laws that regulate marriage and sexuality? How have you and your family been affected by living outside of these boundaries?

Have you been in conversations with others about the same-sex marriage debate in our culture? How can you frame the issues truthfully and graciously?

Have you ever been so confronted with a truth from God's word that you wanted to attack or even kill the messenger?

Are you right now living in violation of the law of God in any area of your life?

**Additional Scripture**

- John 3:18-21
- Exodus 20:3,4,14,17
- 1Pet. 2:19-25
- Luke 21:12-19
- Hebrews 3:12-19