

Matthew Chapter 13

Parable: “To cast alongside”, a story or comparison to amplify, explain, or make clear a lesson or teaching.

- Probably takes place at Capernaum by the Sea of Galilee. (Map)
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V: 1 *“The same day”* – as the miracles and events from chapter 12.

- The parables are allegorical in nature; while we don’t want to overly “spiritualize” the scriptures, there are times – as with the parables where this is how we examine them. As such we can see other possible allegorical elements in other parts of the passage as well.
 - “The house” – Israel.
 - “Sat by the sea” – the nations / gentiles.
 - Jesus is no longer just talking to the Jews, but to everyone, including the gentiles.

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

V: 2 The water with the natural landscape acts as an amplifier, it still does today.

“... the whole multitude stood on the shore.”

- This intimates an eagerness to see and hear the Lord.
- A casual, relaxed setting with a non-casual attitude.

Nehemiah 8:5-9 ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: ⁶And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, amen, amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁷Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. ⁸So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. ⁹And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha (governor), and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, this day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.”

V: 3 “Paraballo” = “alongside”

- A story that relates a lesson about life based on a common situation or experience.
- There is a relationship between the 7 parables listed in this chapter and the 7 churches described in Revelation chapters 2 & 3.
- Extra credit: read ahead and see what’s up.

{Parable of the sower /soils is related to the letter to the church of Ephesus in Revelation Ch. 2, speaking of “the first love”.}

- A sower goes forth to sow – to spread seed.

V: 4 The **way side** is a type of soil, in this case a “pathway” (like a side walk) it is also a type of heart or attitude; a hardened heart, in-penetrable.

- Jesus always addressed heart issues.
- The fowls / birds always represent the enemy, demonic presence.

V: 5 Stony places Vs: fleshly tables of the heart.

Ezekiel 36:26 (Heart surgery) “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”

2 Corinthians 3:3 “Forasmuch as you are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”

- Has all the looks of good / receptive soil – exterior, but interior is hardened to the things of the Lord. (POSER!)

V: 6 Points out the need to be rooted & grounded in the Lord.

Colossians 2:6-7 “⁶As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: ⁷Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”

- Story of the orange farmer who forced his orchards to be deeply rooted at an early age so as to flourish later, especially during droughts and adverse conditions.

Psalm 1:1-3 “¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²but his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

Ephesians 3:16-19 “¹⁶That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.”

- It is important to have deep roots; they hold fast during the storms, and they help you to last during the droughts.

V: 7 Jesus will later explain that these “thorns” are the cares of this life, the things that distract us, divert our attention and energy.

The issue is right priorities:

Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Matthew 22:27 “Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

V: 8 Good soil, receptive and fertile

“Hundredfold” Isaac sowed in the land of Abimelech and reaped a hundred fold, because God was blessing him!

Genesis 26:12 “Then Isaac sowed in the land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him.”

V: 9 Jesus gave the same admonition to the 7 churches in **Rev. Ch’s. 2-3.**

John 10:27 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

- It follows that there will be some who don’t hear, those who don’t have ears to hear.
- The natural man, non-believer, cannot understand.

(turn to)

1 Corinthians 2:9-14 ⁹“But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ¹¹For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

- Lacking the faculty to understand as a blind man can’t enjoy a sunset, or a deaf man enjoying music.
- Comparing the Gospels:
 - Mark 4:24** “take heed what you hear...”
 - Luke 8:18** “take heed how you hear... .”
- The bottom line:

Romans 10:17 “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

V: 10 When we don’t understand, or don’t know – we can go to our heavenly Father and He will give us wisdom.

James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

John 8:31-32 ³¹... if ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; ³²And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

V: 11 “Know” – “Ginosko” Who gives this knowledge?

1 Corinthians 2:10 “But God hath revealed them unto us by His spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God.”

Matthew 16:17 “Blessed are thou Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in Heaven.”

John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

V: 12 The one who receives and responds will gain even more insight. The ones who don't respond, even the little they have will be taken away.

- When we reject the wisdom of God, the counsel of God – what is left? The wisdom and counsel of this world – which is foolishness to God:

Romans 1:21-22; 28 “²¹Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.

“²⁸And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;”

- Sadly, when we reject the truth, all that is left is the lie.

V: 13 This is the answer to the question asked in verse 10.

- Seeing doesn't necessarily equal recognizing.
- Hearing doesn't necessarily equal understanding.

V: 14-15 Prophecies fulfilled: **Isaiah 6:9-10**

Ezekiel 12:2 “Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.”

- They have closed their own eyes.
- “There are none so blind as those who will not see.”

2 Peter 3:5 “For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water.” (Darwinism)

Zechariah 7:11-12 “¹¹But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. ¹²Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone / like flint, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the Lord of hosts hath sent in His Spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the Lord of hosts.”

- They have become like their own idols.

Psalms 115:4-8 “⁴Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. ⁵They have mouths, but speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: ⁶They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not:

⁷They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. ⁸They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.”

- God does not condemn them, they condemn themselves

John 3:17-19 “¹⁷For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”.

V's: 16-17 “**But**” – contrast: you do see, you do hear – blessed are you!

Psalms 119:17-18 “¹⁷Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word. ¹⁸Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

- The Old Testament prophets didn't always understand what they were writing, they had lots of questions.

1 Peter 1:10-12 “¹⁰Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: ¹¹Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. ¹²Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”

- 2 lines of Messianic prophesy.
- Salvation by Grace.
- Crucifixion
- Resurrection
- The church.

2 Corinthians 4:6 “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

V: 18 Listen up / pay attention.

V: 19 “... *and does not understand it...*”

- Understanding is key: receiving instruction, study, perseverance.

2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Hebrews 4:2 “For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.”

Jeremiah 17:23 “But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction.”

Jeremiah 32:33 “And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction.”

1 Corinthians 2:14 “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

V: 20-21 Shallow dirt – “bowl” – no deep roots.

- A warm rock, causes early / immediate germination.
- Seed germinating in my truck, little green plant.

Ephesians 3:16-19 “¹⁶That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.”

2 Peter 1:10 “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”

- Know what you believe and why you believe it!

V: 22 Not 25% as in 1 of the 4 soils, it's the majority of the church today.

- “Deceitfulness” of riches. → **Matthew 6:24** → **Joshua 24:15**

Matthew 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

Joshua 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood / river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”.

- We must all choose.

V: 23 Fruit: **John 15:1-8** speaks about the importance of fruit.

- Righteousness **James 3:18**
- Holiness **Romans 6:20-22**
- Souls **Romans 1:13**
- Love **Galatians 5:23**
- Giving **Philippians 4:17**
- Labor **Colossians 1:10**
- Praise **Hebrews 13:15**

- The average seed to harvest ratio is 8 to 1; the Word of God yields much more, 30-60-100 fold!

Isaiah 55:11 “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

- Plow! Prepare the soil, break it up!

Exodus 20:1-17, use the plow / 10 commandments.

Jeremiah 4:3 “Break up your fallow ground, sow not among thorns.”

Galatians 3:24 “Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

James 2:10 “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.”

Matthew 5-6-7 “Be perfect”

V: 24 **The Kingdom of Heaven is this present age.**

John the Baptist & Jesus both said:

Matthew 3:2, 4:17 "... repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

V: 25 *"While they slept"* - every man's enemy.

1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

- **Matt. 25 10 virgins, while they slept the groom came.**
- **Peter & Apostles, while they slept, Jesus fought the battle of Gethsemane.**

Romans 13:11 "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

Mixed seed:

Leviticus 19:19 "... thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed:"

1 Corinthians 14:33 "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."

- Tares look exactly like wheat – but they don't produce fruit, they only use up water and space.

2 Peter 2:1-3 "¹But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. ²And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. ³And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."

- Parable of the Tares relates to the church of Smyrna (persecuted) in Revelation.

V: 26 How can we tell the difference between wheat and tares?

- Tares look exactly like wheat but they don't bear fruit, they are un-identifiable until harvest time.

Matthew 12:33 "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit."

V: 27 -28 **Ephesians 6:12** – immediate recognition of the enemy.

Ephesians 6:12 “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

- Fruit of the flesh (**Galatians 5:19-21**), lie from the father of lies (**John 8:44**), divisive (**Prov. 6:16-19**), contrary to God’s word, a denial of Christ in some way.

V: 30 Harvest, separation time. The wheat / good seed is gathered into the barn.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

Matthew 25:31-32 ³¹When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: ³²And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth His sheep from the goats:”

2 Peter 2:9 “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the Godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.”

- “My barn”

John 14:2-3 ²In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

V: 31-32 Re: **outward growth, abnormal growth**. Mustard seed produces a herb / bush, not a tree.

- Birds are bad. See **Daniel Ch. 4**.
- Perverted growth, abnormal, not intended to be so big – a place for the fowls of the air to dwell.
- The parable of the mustard seed relates the letter to the church of Pergamos.

V: 33 Regarding **inward growth**.

- “Leaven” is always bad, analogous to sin, pride.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8 “⁷Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: ⁸Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

Mark 8:15 “And He charged them, saying, take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the leaven of Herod.”

- “3 measures of meal” - **Genesis 18:6** – 1st mention of 3 measures = fellowship / communion.
- **Exodus & Leviticus**, offerings of various kinds were always without leaven.
- This is a picture of what happens to the Word of God between now and the return of Jesus.
- The influence of the church in the world today is waning.
- Biblical “scholars” tampering with the Word of God is a good example of “leaven” permeating the Word of God.

Deuteronomy 4:2 **Revelation 22:18-19**

Luke 18:8 “I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?”

- The parable of leaven relates to the letter to the church of Thyatira and about Jezebel in the book of Revelation.

V: 34-35 That it might be fulfilled – **Psalm 78:2**

- “Mystery” = The church, the bride. **Ephesians 3:1-6** **Romans 16:25**

V: 36 Separation – now it’s just Jesus and the disciples.

- Those who walked away were not given understanding of the parables.
- Those who continued to walk with the Lord received understanding, just like today.

V: 37 Jesus is the sower of Good seed.

Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.”

John 17:8 “For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send Me.

V: 38 “Good seed” – unless it dies, it is useless.

John 12:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”

Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

- Whenever Jesus plants good seed, the enemy plants counterfeits.

Counterfeit - Gospel
Believers
Wonders / miracles
Church
Christ

Galatians 1:8
2 Corinthians 11:26
2 Thessalonians 2:9-12
Revelation 2:9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- The damage happens when we're asleep, not paying attention, allowing it.

V: 39 End of the world – angels as reapers.

Joel 3:13

Revelation 14:14-19 ¹⁴And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. ¹⁵And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. ¹⁶And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. ¹⁷And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. ¹⁸And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. ¹⁹And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.”

V: 40 **Are our lives bearing fruit, or are we just taking up space?**

1 Corinthians 11:31 “For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged”

Matthew 7:21-23 “²¹Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in Thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works? ²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity!”

2 Peter 1:10 “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”

V: 41 **“The Son of Man”** - shall send His angels.

- Jesus expressing His deity, only God commands His angels.

V: 42 Heaven is real, and just as assuredly hell is real too.

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

V: 43 Contrast – but the righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father!

- This speaks of glory! This speaks of being in the presence of God Himself!

Psalms 16:11 “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

V: 44 Hidden treasure = Sardis, the remnant.

- Israel, the treasure that comes out of the land.
- Jesus gave all that He had for it.
- He bought / redeemed the whole world, just to get the treasure.

Hebrews 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

V: 45-46 Goodly pearls = Philadelphia / Church.

- Pearls come out of the sea, nations.
 - Pearls are not prized by the Jews.
 - Pearls are caused by the introduction of an irritation.
 - That irritation is not covered / clothed by itself, but by the host.
 - Pearls grow by accumulation.
 - Human perspiration ruins pearls.
- Again, Jesus gave all that He had for it / us.

V: 47-50 Drag net = Laodicea

- World – tribulation saints / martyrs. **Revelation 7:13-15**

Revelation 19:11-15 *T/T - read*

V: 51 - 52 Teachers / men of God. Old Testament & New Testament, all treasure.

2 Timothy 2:15 **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

- The Word of God is that Good treasure:

Psalms 19:7-11 ⁷“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”

V: 53-54 “His own country” – “Their synagogue”

- Astonished, why?

Deuteronomy 18:15 “The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto Him ye shall hearken.”

Isaiah 50:4 “The Lord God hath given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.”

V: 55-56 **John 1:14** – They didn't recognized Him as God, only **Isaiah 53:2-3**.

Isaiah 53:2-3 ²For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground: He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. ³He 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."

- They only saw the carpenter's son, they were spiritually blind.
- "Perpetual virginity" is out the window.

Blinded by the God of this world.

2 Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

V: 57 They were offended, stumbled by Jesus.

Jesus said:

Matthew 11:6 "... blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in Me."

Prophecy fulfilled:

Psalms 22:6 "But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people."

V: 58 They admitted to His wisdom and mighty works (**V:54**), but don't bother me with the facts!

John 14:11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the very works sake."

- Un-belief, our lack of faith is what limits us!

Psalms 78:41 "Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel."

Hebrews 3:19 "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."

Mark 9:23-24 ²³Jesus said unto him, if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. ²⁴And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."