

Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

Matthew 13:53-58

Dangerous Familiarity

Welcome back to another season of GLC's! Between now and Easter, we will be working through Matthew chapters 13-16. This section is full of parables, miracles, and more. It should be a great time for our groups.

Here's a short summary of the purpose of the book of Matthew, according to the ESV Study Bible:

Matthew crafted his account to demonstrate Jesus' messianic identity, his inheritance of the Davidic kingship over Israel, and his fulfillment of the promise made to his ancestor Abraham (Matt. 1:1) to be a blessing to all the nations (Gen. 12:1-3). Thus in large part Matthew's Gospel is an evangelistic tool aimed at his fellow Jews, persuading them to recognize Jesus as their long-awaited Messiah. At the same time, the Gospel reveals clearly to Gentiles that salvation through Jesus the Messiah is available to all nations. For Jewish Christians, Matthew's Gospel provides encouragement to stand steadfast amid opposition from their own countrymen, as well as Gentile pagans, secure in the knowledge of their citizenship in God's kingdom.

Our weekly studies will have four parts, following the four categories that we've set for GLC's, and end with prayer.

exploring

we will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.

digging

we will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.

growing

we will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.

going

we will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.



exploring

And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, 54 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? 55 Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” 57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.” 58 And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

(Matthew 13:53–58)

1. V.53 tells us that ‘he went away from there’. Where had he been?
2. V.54 tells us that ‘they were astonished.’ Who was? And why?
3. What else sticks out to you from this passage?

digging

4. Where was Jesus’s hometown? Why is it significant that the people there treat him this way?
5. Earlier in Matthew, Jesus’s family comes to see him (12:46-50). What was Jesus’s reaction? How do you think this affected his relationship with the family?
6. Look back to some of the mighty works he did in Matthew. How were the people different in those passages vs. the people in Nazareth?

growing

7. In the sermon, Pastor Paul talked about how the Greek word for “offense” is *skandalizo*, where we get the word ‘scandal’ from. The people of Nazareth were ‘scandalized’ by Jesus. What doctrines of the Bible tend to ‘scandalize’ you? The Gospel? Hell? End times opinions? Discuss.



8. Sometimes in the church we can become so familiar with the term 'gospel' that we forget how radical it actually is. Discuss the radical nature of the gospel, and how it can be good news for the worst of sinners, and bad news for the morally self-righteous.

going

9. Have you ever shared the gospel with someone and that person responded with 'I am too far gone to be saved'. How did you respond?
10. When you think of the radical nature of the gospel, does that excite you to share it, or does it scare you? Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-30 and discuss this together.

Pray "Kingdom Prayers"

Kingdom prayers are prayers that don't only focus on the immediate need, but also on God's glory. For example, if someone has a sore knee instead of just praying "God, please heal Betty's knee", you would pray something like "God, please heal Betty's knee so that she can continue to serve you and your people; so that she can continue attend worship services pain free and give you glory for your healing hand." See the difference?

Some ideas of what to pray for:

- Each other's needs/requests
- King Road's ministries, missionaries, members, and pastors
- Opportunities to share the gospel

