



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

**Sunday – February 22, 2026**

## **To Know Christ...**

There is no place like home ... unless you are a prophet. Jesus was well aware of this truth before He ever returned to Nazareth. He knew that the reception would be anything but favorable. **“And they took offense at Him [Jesus]. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.”** (Matthew 13:57) Jesus had gone to His own hometown, and yet He was met by the marvelous reaction of unbelief in the synagogue there. Even His own half-brothers did not believe in Him until after His resurrection. (John 7:5 & Acts 1:14) During Jesus’ ministry, His family thought He had lost His Mind! **“When His own people [kinsmen] heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, “He has lost His senses.””** (Mark 3:21) Rejection from your family members; rejection in your own hometown! Yet Jesus kept on preaching and teaching the gospel.

After overcoming all the temptations of the devil in the wilderness and being empowered by the Spirit, Jesus entered Nazareth to worship in the synagogue on the Sabbath. (Luke 4:14-30) The book of Isaiah was handed to Him; He found the passage (61:1-2) ... **“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed, To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”** Jesus knew they wanted miracles; He offered them nothing more than a pair of Old Testament stories of how the LORD showed mercy toward two outsiders, rather than God’s own people. Those who came to the synagogue to worship God were now enraged! They drove Him out of the city, His own hometown, desiring to throw Him off the cliff! Literally seeking to KILL Him, but Jesus passed through their midst unharmed; His time had not come.

Preaching the gospel to poor captives (outsiders) was considered a disrespectful slap in the face to the Jews of Nazareth. Jesus taught the gospel anyway, even if others sought to kill Him for doing it. Where do you fit into this teaching? There are only two major roles. Is there any

soul that would offend you, if Jesus forgave them by His power & grace? If there is, you fit perfectly with the citizens of Nazareth in the synagogue that day. Would you say someone has “**lost their senses**” in forgiving them? Your hatred also seeks to kill Jesus out of your own life. **OR** ... would you also risk your LIFE to take the gospel to those who have been held captive by sin? Knowing the power of the gospel is greater than any sin. Then you are striving to walk with Jesus! Remember the words of Jesus ... “**For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**” (Matthew 6:14-15) Who wants to meet the Lord and fully pay for the transgression of unforgiveness?

- Carey Terry