

Christmas in my hometown

Part 1 • December 7, 2025 | Pastor Jason Smotherman

Have you ever noticed, that the more familiar you become with something, the easier it becomes to ignore it, undervalue it, or even misuse it? It's not that the thing lost its power. It's that you stopped seeing its value.

Christmas presents are a prime example. The value of giving the gift is often more than the actual gift itself. The actual gift gets set aside often forgotten. Try to remember some of the gifts you received last year, the year before, 10 years ago?

You can buy a brand-new tool and for the first week, you handle it with care. You clean it, you store it right, you thank God you bought it. Fast forward a year and it's tossed in a box, buried under junk, covered in dust. You will very rarely go into an estate sale and find organized tools. The tools are still tools. Still useful. Still capable. But no longer used.

Why? **Familiarity turned usefulness into uselessness.**

Even relationships, the people you once thanked God for can become "ordinary" if you stop seeing their value.

It's human nature. We stop appreciating what stays close. We stop honoring what we get used to. We stop seeing the power in what becomes familiar.

The truth: familiarity doesn't change the object, it changes the heart.

Because what you refuse to honor eventually becomes unable to help you. Not because it lost ability, but because you lost awareness.

You ever notice, the people who know you the best are sometimes the slowest to believe what God is doing in you? That's exactly where we meet Jesus in Mark chapter 6.

MARK 6:1 (ESV)

He went away from there and came to his hometown

That place was Nazareth. They watched Him grow up. This is the place where He took His first steps. Where He learned the trade. Where He obeyed Joseph. Where Mary probably said, "Jesus, clean your room." Was there acne, awkwardness, or the occasional attitudes? I don't know, but what I do know.

This is His hometown. They rejected Him. **Not because he wasn't Jesus, it was because he was just Jesus.** Unbelief is fueled by familiarity. Familiarity kills Faith. Jesus wasn't honored because he was too familiar.

FAMILIARITY MAKES YOU MISS WHAT GOD PUT RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU

MARK 6:3 (NIV)

Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son?

In other words: We know Him. We know His story. We know His family. We know where He lives. We know who He used to be. They recognized His family but not Him. He was hidden in familiarity.

There are people in your life who know your history so well, they cannot accept your destiny. You can't control them but you can control how you view those who you are familiar with.

Fan the flame of destiny of those around you. They remember him as the carpenter... Not the King. They remember him as the kid... Not the Son of God. They remember Him as the helper... Not the healer.

And if we're not careful, we will make the same mistake. We will let our familiarity with Jesus fuel our unbelief.

FAMILIARITY BREEDS DISHONOR AND DISHONOR BLOCKS POWER

MARK 6:4 (CSB) (JESUS SPEAKING)

A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown

Dishonor doesn't always look like disrespect. Dishonor looks like common. "Yeah, that's just our pastor." "That's just worship." "That's just church." "That's just prayer." "That's just my spouse." "That's just my kid." "That's just my Bible verse of the day." "That's just the faithful." That's just

And the moment you call sacred things common, you choke the miracle that was trying to come through it. Honor invites heaven. Familiarity pushes it away.

UNBELIEF GROWS WHEN FAMILIARITY RULES

MARK 6:5-6 (ESV) (The text says something terrifying)

He could do no mighty work there... because of their unbelief.

Not because He lacked power. Not because He lacked compassion. Not because He lacked authority. But because the environment refused Him.

Nazareth didn't have a demon problem. Nazareth didn't have a political problem. Nazareth had a familiarity problem. They were too close to Jesus to take Him seriously.

And that's where many people are today, close to church... close to worship... close to the Word... close to the move of God... but never receiving from it because everything has become common. You can be around the miraculous and never experience it. The sacred has become common.

THE MIRACLE YOU NEED MAY BE HIDING IN WHAT YOU'VE GROWN USED TO

Let me make this practical: The breakthrough you're praying for, is trapped behind the dishonor you're giving.

You want God to speak? But you don't honor the Word anymore.

You want God to restore your marriage? But you treat your spouse like they're just there.

You want spiritual growth? But you've grown familiar with your pastor's voice, preferences, and consumerism. So the Word doesn't cut you anymore. You want God to move in your city? But you talk about it like it's hopeless.

God often wraps the supernatural in the familiar to test the heart.

Naaman was a man who was looking for a miracle with a parade. But God sent someone who Naaman overlooked. In 2 Kings 5 we get the story.

Who points Naaman toward healing? A servant girl. A nobody. A captured Israelite. Taken from her family. Working in his house. And this little girl says, "I know a prophet in Israel who can heal you."

Isn't it amazing how God will often speak through the people you're most likely to ignore? Because the Kingdom rarely shows up in royal packaging. It often walks into your life wearing humility.

God used a little girl to get a general to the prophet who would connect him to a miracle.

Sometimes the voice you overlook carries the breakthrough you need.

NAAMAN EXPECTED HIS MIRACLE TO LOOK IMPRESSIVE

Naaman finally gets to Elisha's house and Elisha doesn't even come outside. The man of God doesn't roll out a red carpet. Doesn't bow. Doesn't honor the general's status. Doesn't even look him in the eye.

Elisha sends a messenger with a simple word: "Go wash in the Jordan seven times."

Naaman gets offended. Why? Because the miracle didn't match his expectations. He says, "I thought he would surely come out, wave his hand, call on the name of his God"

In other words, "I thought it would be more dramatic. More supernatural-looking. More worthy of someone at my level."

Pride always wants a glamorous miracle. Faith accepts a God-sized one. Naaman wanted the spectacular. God offered the simple. And he almost walked away from healing because it came dressed in familiarity.

NAAMAN DISMISSED THE INSTRUCTION BECAUSE THE JORDAN LOOKED TOO COMMON

Naaman says: "Are not the rivers of Damascus better than the waters of Israel?" He was saying, "This river isn't special enough. This place isn't fancy enough. I'm not getting in that water."

Naaman wanted a miracle but didn't want the method.

He wanted transformation without obedience. He wanted healing without humility. He wanted breakthrough without surrender.

And the thing he called too ordinary was the very place God placed his miracle. Familiarity almost stole his healing.

SOMETIMES GOD SENDS YOU BACK TO THE SIMPLE TO SEE IF YOU TRULY

TRUST HIM

God didn't need Naaman to dip in the Jordan because the water was special. God needed Naaman to dip in the Jordan because his pride was special and it needed to die.

The Jordan wasn't about water. The Jordan was about obedience. The Jordan was about submission. The Jordan was about surrender.

Sometimes God brings us to a familiar place to break a familiar sin: pride, self-reliance, arrogance, stubbornness. God wanted Naaman healed but God wanted Naaman humbled too.

OBEDIENCE ACTIVATED WHAT OFFENSE ALMOST BLOCKED

Naaman dips. One time, no change. Two times, no change. Three times, nothing. Four, five, still leprosy. Six, still broken. But on the seventh dip the Bible says his skin became like a child's.

He didn't just get healed, he got restored. Naaman almost missed his miracle because the instruction sounded too simple. Israel almost missed manna because it looked too ordinary. Nazareth missed Jesus because He looked too local. Don't downgrade what God is using because you've seen it too much.

ASK GOD TO RENEW YOUR WONDER

Sometimes the greatest prayer you can pray is: "Lord, open my eyes again." Open my eyes to the power of prayer. Open my eyes to the beauty of your Word. Open my eyes to the gift of my family. Open my eyes to the calling on my life. Open my eyes to the church I take for granted. Open my eyes to the miracles I've stopped noticing.

Because when God opens your eyes Faith rises. Honor returns. And the environment becomes miracle-ready again.

You are one moment of honor away from a breakthrough. You are one step of faith away from a miracle. You are one decision away from saying, "God, I refuse to treat You as common."

If Nazareth had honored Jesus, they would've seen wonders. If we honor Him now, we will too. I want more of Christ in my hometown.