

# How To Limit What Jesus Can Do

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Jesus had been touring Galilee doing many mighty works, but when He rolled into Nazareth, we read, “And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.” (Mark 6:5.) How is it that Jesus was able to do so many miracles (“mighty works”) everywhere except in His own hometown?

Isn't Jesus God? And isn't God able to do anything? After talking about the difficulties rich people have entering the kingdom of God, Jesus said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Matt. 19:26.) On another occasion, the disciples had been unable to cast a demon out of a boy. When they asked why they couldn't, Jesus rebuked their lack of faith saying, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matt. 17:20.) Obviously, there was a direct relationship between their faith and the power to perform miracles. And when Jesus did miracles, it was because people sought Him out, believing He could help them.

But that wasn't the case in Nazareth. The people were saying, *“Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?”* Jesus was astonished at their unbelief (Mark 6: 3,6.) It wasn't that Jesus couldn't do miracles there for He certainly had the power to do so. But faith on the part of folks is His chosen method of imparting blessings. He healed a few people but for the most part, the people didn't believe in Him as the Son of God so conditions were unfavorable for Jesus to do any large amount of miracles.

Is it different today? How often do we get in the way of the Lord blessing us because we lack faith? James reminds us to “ask in faith, with no doubting” (James 1:6.) Do our prayers miss the mark because our requests are not mixed with complete faith? And our salvation is no different. Some teach that God picks certain people to be saved, whether they believe or not and regardless of how they live. But Nazareth proves that can't be the truth. A lack of faith hindered Jesus from doing anything there. Further, Jesus equated belief with baptism for salvation (Mark 16:16.) Paul explained that baptism is with “faith in the operation of God” (Col. 2:12.) Faith believes that God rewards those who seek Him (Heb. 11:6.)

On the other hand, we are encouraged to believe in the power of the Lord. Notice what Paul said in Ephesians 3:20-21, *“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”* It won't hurt to notice that glory is due the Lord in the church (not out of it) in all generations. That would include ours too. And glory is due because of the power working in us by the Lord that is above what we can imagine.

Don't be like the folks of Nazareth who lacked faith and thus limited what Jesus would do there. Come to Jesus in faith and let Him do mighty things in your life. Letting Him save you is a good start.