

East Side Church of God

Life Notes

Focused on the Familiar
January 24, 2010

Text: Matthew 13:58-14:14

Faulty Focus #1: We often become so focused on the familiar things of life that we miss the presence of God in our midst.

But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.” And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief. –Matthew 13:57b-58 (ESV)

Faulty Focus #2: We often become so focused on the familiar things of life that we miss the power of God to change the world.

For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because John had been saying to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet. –Matthew 14:3-5 (ESV)

Focal Point: When our focus is misdirected, God’s heart breaks for us.

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. –Matthew 14:13-14 (ESV)