

**Lost Opportunity**  
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**Introduction:** We serve a God that gives us opportunities for good.

A. God has chosen to make us choose and struggle to find His blessings.

**(Heb 11:6)**

1. What if Jesus came to this town to preach?
2. If worldly standards were applied to Jesus, was He a “successful” preacher?

B. It takes a living, moving faith to seize the opportunities God places before us.

1. Many have lived a life of failure and their fears convince them to pull back. **(Mt 25:25-28)**
2. Others have become satisfied and then blinded to who they are!
3. A living faith will lead you to places that you never thought you would go. It is a great blessing to be so led. **(Phil 3:13-14)**

C. Are you and I teachable?

1. Today I am speaking to people who have great advantages in spiritual things. **(2 Pt 1:3-4)**
2. If I am truly taking advantages of these things, then what will my life be like?
3. We will study the Jews of Capernaum and learn how they lost the greatest opportunity of their eternity.

***I. Jesus’ arrival in Capernaum***

A. Jesus came here after the imprisonment of John the Baptist. **(Mt 4:12-13)**

B. Jesus’ work here was prophesied in scripture. **(Mt 4:14-16; Isa 9:1-7)**

1. These people who were once in darkness would now have a great light!
2. These people sat in the shadow of death. Reasonable people see death with great humility. Jesus has the answer!

C. After departing Capernaum, He worked a miracle there. **(Jn 4:46-54)**

1. Jesus knew these men and their demand for signs. **(1 Cor 1:22-23)**
2. This man had a weak faith but found strength. Many never sought Jesus because of their prejudice!
3. Jesus was not physically in Capernaum, still light came to a household there! **(Jn 4:53)**
4. Never look down upon a weak faith that is willing to seek the Lord!

***II. A day of miracles in Capernaum***

A. They acknowledged His powerful teaching. **(Lk 4:31-32)**

1. Here is where God’s work in men will take place!
2. Recognizing ability and *really listening* are 2 different things. **(Ezk 33:30-33)**

B. They acknowledged His powerful miracles. **(Lk 4:33-37)**

1. This should have shown them that He was clearly from God.

2. Many who acknowledged these things later killed Him and even persecuted His apostles. **(Acts 4:16-17)**
3. An intellectual acceptance of the facts is not enough!
- C. They began seeking Him but Jesus went to other cities. **(Mk 1:37-38)**
  1. Sadly Jesus gained a great popularity at Capernaum but they had little depth to them.
  2. Was Jesus successful in Capernaum?

### ***III. Confrontation in Capernaum***

- A. Jesus has all the religious leaders before Him. **(Lk 5:17)**
- B. He heals a paralytic before them all. **(Lk 5:18-26)**
  1. These leaders viewed Jesus as a competitor. **(Mk 15:10)**
  2. They viewed Jesus as a blasphemer and wanted Him destroyed. **(v21)**
  3. Still, Jesus in kindness tried to reach these leaders with the truth as well.
- C. Later these same leaders would later beg Jesus for a miracle!
  1. A Roman Centurion would request a favor from Jesus. **(Lk 7:1-2)**
  2. Now these same leaders beg Jesus to help! What happened? **(Lk 7:3)**
  3. Often hearts are moved by the day to day acts of kindness and faith that preaching alone could not shake. **(Mt 5:16; 1 Pt 3:1-2)**
  4. Many doors of opportunity are opened by *new converts* rather than by more experienced Christians. Why is this so?
  5. This centurion had great faith! His background did not stop him. **(Lk 7:9)**

### ***IV. The Final rejection at Capernaum (Jn 6:24, 59)***

- A. There comes a “watershed” moment where we must choose.
  1. The people followed for the wrong reason and were rebuked! **(Jn 6:24-30)**
  2. Can we build real faith through “loafs and fishes?”
- B. This crowd walked out on Jesus when they failed to understand. **(Jn 6:52-53)**
  1. What did these people think? What did Jesus mean?
  2. What would it take for these people to know the truth? A shallow person will always quit. **(Mt 13:13-15)**
  3. The crowd finally rejected Jesus. He was not surprised! **(Jn 6:60-66)**
  4. Where were the elders and those who had seen the miracles?  
**(Jn 6:67-68, 59)**

***Conclusion:*** What happened at Capernaum happens all over the world.

- A. When the real Jesus is preached there are strong reactions to the light of truth.
- B. What was Jesus final analysis of Capernaum?
  1. Other cities knew of His great works in Capernaum. **(Lk 4:23)**
  2. Jesus gives His view of the final results of His work there. **(Mt 11:23-24)**