1 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.
2 On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands!
3 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?” And they took offense at him.
4 Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.”
5 And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.
6 And he was amazed at their unbelief.
WORD POWER!!!

- **Hometown** – In Jesus’ case, the city of Nazareth.
- **Sabbath** – Seventh day of the week on which God told Jewish people to rest so they could observe it as a holy day. Modern Jewish people worship God on this day.
- **Synagogue** – Jewish gathering place for worship and learning.
- **House** – Family line.
- **Kin** – Relative(s).

GETTING READY!!!

Jair had been serving with the youth ushers since he was four years old. People were used to him showing them to their seats. They were used to him collecting the offering. They were even used to Jair offering them fans on hot days. The church was so proud of Jair’s service that they paid for him to attend the district youth training institute.

During the institute, Jair learned about the many things stewardesses did to support the pastor and the members of the church. He’d learned about how the stewardesses prepared for Holy Communion, baptisms, and ministered to people who responded to the invitation to Christ. Jair even learned about how stewardesses sometimes traveled with pastors during their Communion visits.
Jair shared what he learned with the youth ministry, stewardesses, and pastor. Then Jair talked with the president of the Stewardess Board about how the stewardesses at his church did their job. Then they both talked with the pastor about how he could work with the stewardess ministry.

At the next Official Board meeting, the pastor announced that he had made Jair a junior steward. The news made Jair very happy because it meant he could help with the stewardess ministry. Jair was even better at this ministry than he’d been when he ushered!

Yet, a lot of people didn’t like seeing him in the new role. Some felt only females should work in the stewardess ministry. Others couldn’t see how an usher could be trusted to care for the altar, Holy Communion, or baptisms. A third group just couldn’t understand how a kid could understand the importance of such a ministry.

Pastor and the president of the Stewardess Board knew Jair had a heart for his new position. They refused to back down from their decision. They also let Jair know that he’d made a wise and godly choice to switch from ushering to working with stewardesses.

**INTO GOD’S WORD!!!**

Jesus also faced opposition from people in his hometown when he taught in the synagogue on the Sabbath. The people of Nazareth remembered him as the carpenter’s son. They also knew he did that for a living. That’s why they were surprised to see Jesus teaching with wisdom and authority. It’s
also why most of the people couldn’t get past their image of what Jesus was supposed be. Listen closely to their reactions....

Man 1: Dude, did you see Jesus teaching in the church today?

Man 2: Yeah. That was so weird. He doesn’t come from a Bible-teaching family.

Man 1: Exactly! He’s a carpenter. He should be building stuff not pretending to be a preacher.

Man 2: I know. Right?

Man 3: But his teaching was on point, though.

Man 2: Doesn’t matter. A guy like him shouldn’t be teaching in our church.

Jesus: Wow. I get honored everywhere else but can’t get any love at home.

Activiy #1 – What a Surprise. Use a sheet of paper to write down all the positive things people said about Jesus in today’s lesson. Use a second sheet of paper to write the negative things people said. The lower side of the seesaw on the next page is for the things that cause the people to reject Jesus. The higher side of the seesaw is for the things that could’ve caused people to accept Jesus. Cut and paste your lists to the side of the seesaw where you think they belong.
During Bible days, people expected children to follow in their parents’ footsteps. However, Jesus wasn’t the first person to shatter that idea. John the Baptist’s father was a priest, but John became a prophet. People got used to John the Baptist having a different job than his father.

Of course, Jesus was different. Jesus did the same job as the father who raised Jesus. Jesus earned his living as a carpenter because that was his job. Jesus also fulfilled his mission to teach, heal, save, and minister to the lost. The people who hadn’t grown up with Jesus were used to seeing Jesus do both. The people in his hometown were not. That’s why some of them were offended to see Jesus ministering in the synagogue. Jesus was shattering their ideas about what it meant to be wise. He was also shattering their ideas about who was able to teach with wisdom. Since Jesus’ hometown people weren’t ready to have their ideas shattered, they refused to accept Jesus’ new role.
These attitudes both surprised and hurt Jesus’ feelings but didn’t stop Jesus from ministering. They just stopped a lot of the people in his hometown from benefitting from what Jesus could do. If people’s attitudes surprise and hurt you when you do something wise and godly, don’t let them stop you. Find a way to continue doing those things even if you must do them in a different place.

**Activity #2 – A Fan to Mend the Hurt.** Use supplies that your teacher provides to create fans that you can use to cool you down when someone rejects you after you did wise and godly things. (Hint: One side of the fan should include how the rejection makes you feel. The other side should include the ways God loves and supports you.)

**REMIX!!!**

Today’s lesson reminds us of something important. People who know us well may not be able to accept us when our wise and godly actions take them by surprise. Their rejection will hurt and surprise us, so we can’t pretend that we don’t feel what we feel. Jesus didn’t. He told the people who rejected him that no one else had treated him that badly.

Jesus could’ve left in a huff without healing anyone, but he didn’t. Instead, Jesus healed those he could before moving on. Jesus was able to do this because he was able to encourage himself. If you want to keep doing wise and godly things, you may need to encourage yourself just like Jesus. Or, you may get outside help like Jair did. His pastor and stewardess president defended and encouraged him. When someone does this for
you, say “thank you” and then do it for someone else.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

If people who know me well reject me
When I’ve done the best I can
To wisely share how great you are
Lord God, send someone near
Who can help me deal with
My hurt, my sadness, and my pain
So that I never give up on sharing
The love, peace, and joy with you I’ve gained.