

WHEN FAITH BECOMES FAMILIAR

Familiarity with the things of God can quietly rob us of expectation, hunger, and transformation.

1. FAMILIARITY CAN REDUCE JESUS TO WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW

Mark 6:1–3

“Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, ‘Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands!’

Mark 6:1–3

Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?’ So they were offended at Him.”

Their problem was not that they knew too little about Jesus. Their problem was that they thought they already knew enough.

Isaiah 55:8–9

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

2. FAMILIARITY CAN TURN HUNGER INTO ROUTINE

Philippians 3:10

10 I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death,

Routine becomes dangerous when the activity remains and the hunger disappears.

3. FAMILIARITY CAN SHRINK EXPECTATION

Mark 6:4–5

“But Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.’ Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.”

Jeremiah 32:27

“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?”

Don’t allow your familiarity with God to shrink your expectation of God.

4. FAMILIARITY CAN STOP TRANSFORMATION

Mark 6:6

6 He was amazed at their lack of faith.

James 1:22

22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

Being exposed to Jesus is not the same thing as being transformed by Jesus.

What we need is to refuse to become casual with what is holy.