

Monday, December 13, 2004

Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:54-58

Text for Today: “**And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.**”
Matthew 3:58

It has been reliably reported that when news of the Wright brothers’ first successful flight at Kitty Hawk reached the ears of a resident of the Wrights’ home town – Dayton – he remarked cynically, “Nonsense! Nobody is ever going to fly. And if anyone ever does fly, it certainly won’t be someone from Dayton!”

It was that same pessimism that robbed the city of Nazareth of the gifts Jesus wanted to give them. Nazareth might have become an outpost of heaven on earth, but the residents’ attitude was, “It can’t happen here!” In Jerusalem, perhaps, or Rome, or some other important place. But surely not in poor, humble, ordinary Nazareth would such miracles take place! It can’t happen here!”

But God’s presence had to break through the humdrum existence of some town – why not Nazareth?

But their second argument for denying Christ the opportunity to work his miracles in Nazareth was this: “it won’t happen now!” So far as the people of Nazareth were concerned, Jesus couldn’t have come at a worse time! There was so much to do. So the trivial crowded the timeless of the busy schedule of the people of Jesus’ home town.

But the final argument the people of Nazareth put forth in rejecting the possibility of Jesus creating mighty deeds to bless the people of Nazareth was the expression of the only power on earth that can keep God from working miracles: the power of personal denial. “I can’t let it happen to me.”

There are miracles waiting to be performed somewhere, why not here? And Christ will come again at some point in time. Why not now? And someone’s life will be magnificently blessed by the miracle God wants them to have. Why not you?

Prayer: Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin in me. Amen.

Bill & Claudine Nichols

