

RUSSELL SANDERS

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PRESS ON

We have the passage in Matthew 13:53-58 which tells of Jesus' return trip to his home area of Nazareth. As he taught in the synagogue, he caught a lot of criticism and unbelief. They saw him simply as Joseph's son and not a prophet or master teacher. They knew his mother Mary and her other sons, James, Joses, Simon, and Judas, as well as her daughters. These were the half-brothers and half-sisters of Jesus. At this early point in his ministry, even his half-siblings did not take him seriously. (However, that changed later, especially with James.)

Yes, Mary was a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus, but not for the rest of her life as some heresies teach. After she gave birth to Jesus, and as soon as she her marriage to Joseph was completed, she began bearing Joseph several children.

The point in this passage shows that one's own family and relatives are often the least receptive to any ministry to which God has called you. My wife has experienced that along with many others who are called by God.

If that has happened (or is happening) with you, do not let their skepticism detract you from that which God has brought you to or to that which you feel called to.

There will always be skeptics and other kinds of resistance. Do not let that deter you. Press on into your high calling in the kingdom of God. In the end, the reward will far exceed any resistance you might encounter. Keep pressing on.

God will always be with you through it. He will never leave you "high and dry," although there may be times that you feel like He has. He has not and will not. Keep your "eyes on the prize." Press on!