Introduction: Why is it that those with the greatest advantages in spiritual matters often fail to take advantage of them?

A. Today I am speaking to people who have great advantages in spiritual things.
   1. You have the complete word of God! (1 Pt 1:10-13)
   2. You have the promises of God. (2 Pt 1:3-4)
   3. You have the care of God. (1 Cor 10:12-13)
   4. If I am truly taking advantages of these things, then what will my life be like?

B. Unfortunately there are wrong ways we can look at the blessings of God.
   1. We can become proud and hardened in pride. (Rom 2:3-6; 2 Cor 12:7)
   2. We can make excuses and allow the opportunity to pass.
   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 should look at death with great humility and seek God. Jesus has the answer! (Heb 2:14-15)
      3. As we will see, not many want the light! (Jn 3:19-21)
   C. After departing Capernaum, He worked a miracle there. (Jn 4:46-54)
      1. Jesus knew the hearts of men and saw that they would only believe by seeing signs. (Jn 4:48; Jn 2:23-25)
      2. This man had a weak faith, but one that would be made stronger. Many never sought out Jesus because of their prejudice!
      3. Even though Jesus was not physically in Capernaum, 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. Just because they acknowledged His ability does not mean they had yielded to the Lord. (Jn 8:31-32)
      3. Many glory in a teacher because of their ability and never let the word work in their hearts. (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. Still there were many who acknowledged these things and later killed Him and persecuted His apostles. (Acts 4:16-17)
      3. How many here will acknowledge these things? Jesus knew that men must go further than an intellectual acceptance of these facts. (Jn 3:1-5)
C. They began seeking Him but Jesus went to other cities. *(Mk 1:37-38)*
   1. Jesus wanted to give others opportunity too. 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. The religious leaders viewed Jesus as a competitor, one to be defeated lest they lose their popularity. *(Mk 15:10)*
   2. These leaders viewed Jesus as a blasphemer and wanted Him destroyed.
   3. Jesus tried to reach these leaders with the truth as well. They would have other opportunities. Still, they had rejected this one.

C. These leaders would later beg Jesus for a miracle because of a lesser light.
   1. Later a Roman Centurion would request a favor from Jesus. *(Lk 7:1-2)*
   2. These same leaders in Capernaum would be the ones to beg Jesus! *(Lk 7:3)*
   3. Many times 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 door of opportunity are opened by new converts rather than by the most experienced Christians. Why is this so?
   5. This centurion had no ordinary faith! *(Lk 7:9)*
   6. Who had the greater advantages, the Jews or this Roman Centurion?

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

A. In every life there comes a “watershed” moment where we choose to stand or we choose to reject the Lord. This day came with the multitudes at Capernaum.
   1. The people showed why they followed Jesus and were rebuked! *(Jn 6:24-30)*
   2. How many judge the success of a church by numbers? How would Jesus judge success?
   3. What would Jesus say about the “family life centers” and the attempts to use food and frolic to draw a crowd?

B. The crowd walked out on Jesus when they failed to understand His message. *(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? This was an obstacle they had to struggle with by God’s design. A shallow person will quit. *(Mt 13:13-15)*
   3. The crowd finally rejected Jesus. He was not surprised! *(Jn 6:60-66)*
   4. In Capernaum there were a small handful that did not leave. 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. *(Mt 7:13-14)*

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)*

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