

Familiarity

We need to be cautious of familiarity lest we hinder what God wants to do in our lives. When you get to see teachers or ministers of the Word regularly, such as in a Bible College or something similar, you can get so familiar that you stop receiving from them. If you aren't careful, you will stop respecting their position, anointing, and influence. For a minister, there is a fine line between not associating with the people and over association.

- a) We lose when we get familiar with people and things. Our attitude changes towards those things and people. When you are too familiar with people, you may not receive from them.
- b) You have heard the saying that "*familiarity breeds contempt.*" When we are over-familiar, have extensive knowledge of or close association with someone or something leads to a loss of respect and value for them or it.
- c) This is not to say we should not have close relationships or fellowship. We should do so with caution not to overdo it.

For Instance:

- Marriage
Sometimes we get too familiar with our spouse that we might end up not respecting him or her the way he ought to be. The foremost thing that causes that is familiarity.
- Car
When we buy a new car, we do oil changes, washing it every week. After some time, we get so familiar that we stop taking care of it and then it begins to waste.
- Job

After a while, we begin to complain, show up late, quit serving with a good heart, compare our pay with others and so forth.

- Word

We can get so familiar with the Word that **we do not give it the reverence and value it deserves**. We might end up taking it for granted and no longer appreciating the significance of God's Word. We then miss revelation from the Word or those very familiar verses. Sometimes we need to read certain verses as if we have never read them before— with unfamiliar eyes.

- A. Proverbs 25:17 Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.
- a) Here is an example of familiarity. If you are too familiar, you can wear out your welcome.
 - b) When we are too familiar, we can weary others out.
 - c) Familiarity can cause one to hate another because they know him so much.
- B. Matthew 13:54-57 "And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were **astonished**, and said, **Whence hath this *man* this wisdom, and *these mighty works*? Is not this the **carpenter's son**? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this *man* all these things? **And they were offended in him**. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house."**
- C. Mark 6:1-6 "*And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him. And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? **And they were offended at him**. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. **And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon***

a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.”

a) **Astonished and Amazed at His teaching and mighty works.**

First, they were astonished at His teaching and mighty works. At this point, the people were not yet familiar with him. This was going to change within no time.

b) **Carpenter, son of Mary, the brother of James.**

i) Right after they were astonished and amazed, they then brought Him to their level and saw Him just as the son of the carpenter. They became familiar with Him.

- What could have happened here was that they saw the human side of Jesus and missed His heart and His Spirit. **Jesus was a God-man.**
- They probably saw Him sweat, smell, go to the bathroom, get tired, hungry, sleep and many more. They knew his natural skill set—a carpenter.

ii) If you know someone or something very well or experience it a lot, you tend to slack or even stop respecting them and start finding fault and dislikes about them. This could be the reason many believed that nothing could come out of Nazareth.

iii) They did not believe the miracles Jesus did, nor the resurrection that later followed. They knew Jesus so much after the physical they struggled to believe in the resurrection.

iv) People close to us such as spouses, siblings, and relatives most times do not value the anointing of God in our lives. In many cases, they will not receive from us as a stranger would.

c) **Offended**

i) The next thing that happened is that they became offended at Him. Had they not become familiar with Him and bringing Him down to their level, they would not have been offended.

ii) This offense caused unbelief which caused no more mighty works to be done by Him. When we are offended by or at someone, we cannot receive from or through that person.

d) **No mighty work save a few.**

i) They came to a place of not receiving from Him because they were offended by Him. This is the point where people stop receiving from a minister or drawing on the anointing of the teacher.

ii) Their familiarity got them to a place where they would not receive from Him and therefore could not, (not would not do) any mighty works among them.