

# **OPENING THE DOOR TO GOD**

## **Part 2: A Picture Of Faith**

### **CONTRAST OF TWO TOWNS**

- ❖ Nazareth - the hometown of Jesus
  - ◆ Saw Jesus as Joseph's son
  - ◆ Were questioning his legitimacy
  - ◆ Very disrespectful and received very little from His ministry
- ❖ Across the lake
  - ◆ Saw Jesus as a healer / miracle worker
  - ◆ Had a high level of expectancy
  - ◆ Very respectful of Jesus - Did not ask Him to work a miracle before they went into action

### **A CLOSER LOOK AT THE HOMETOWN ENCOUNTER (Luke 4:22-28 NKJ)**

- ❖ Not a hometown hero
  - ◆ Jesus was treated with a prove it to me mentality
- ❖ Jesus defines the problem
  - ◆ A prophet is not accepted in his own area - approved
  - ◆ A prophet is without honor in his hometown and among his family
- ❖ Jesus presents a contrast
  - ◆ A widow and leper - Both were not from Israel
  - ◆ Both experienced miracles
  - ◆ Jesus' example made the people mad

### **A WIDOW OPENS THE DOOR TO GOD (1 Kings 17:8-16 NKJ)**

- ❖ Elijah was sent to a foreign country
  - ◆ Sidon was a Phoenician city
  - ◆ God had prepared the heart of a widow
- ❖ The widow showed honor to Elijah
  - ◆ Was willing to serve him
  - ◆ Acknowledged Elijah's position - the Lord your God who is alive
  - ◆ Explained her lack of ability to help Elijah - legitimate
- ❖ Elijah's response
  - ◆ Do not be afraid - the opposite from faith
  - ◆ Gave her a reason not to fear - there was a promise from God attached to his request
- ❖ The widow's faith
  - ◆ She did what Elijah said - could not have been an easy task
  - ◆ God honored His word - she had enough for her family and for helping God's work