

Even though Jesus was the greatest Teacher who ever walked the earth, the majority of people in his day were stumbled by him. Why? In this article, we will consider four reasons. We will also see why many today stumble at what Jesus' true followers say and do. More important, we will learn why we can have strong faith in Jesus so that we are not stumbled.

(Matthew 11:6) Happy is the one who finds no cause for stumbling in me.”

Paragraph 1

(Psalm 119:105) Your word is a lamp to my foot,
And a light for my path.

Paragraph 2

(John 11:47, 48) So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the San'he·drin together and said: “What are we to do, for this man performs many signs? 48 If we let him go on this way, they will all put faith in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

(John 11:53) So from that day on they conspired to kill him.

(John 12:9-11) Meanwhile, a large crowd of Jews got to know that he was there, and they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Laz'a·rus, whom he had raised up from the dead. 10 The chief priests now conspired to kill Laz'a·rus also, 11 since it was because of him that many of the Jews were going there and putting faith in Jesus.

Paragraph 3

(John 5:39-44) “You are searching the Scriptures because you think that you will have everlasting life by means of them; and these are the very ones that bear witness about me.

40 And yet you do not want to come to me so that you may have life. 41 I do not accept glory from men, 42 but I well know that you do not have the love of God in you. 43 I have come in the name of my Father, but you do not receive me. If someone else came in his own name, you would receive that one. 44 How can you believe, when you are accepting glory from one another and you are not seeking the glory that is from the only God?

(Matthew 11:2, 3) But John, having heard in jail about the works of the Christ, sent his disciples 3 to ask him: “Are you the Coming One, or are we to expect a different one?”

(Matthew 11:6) Happy is the one who finds no cause for stumbling in me.”

Paragraph 5

(John 1:46) But Na·than'a·el said to him: “Can anything good come out of Naz'a·reth?” Philip said to him: “Come and see.”

(Micah 5:2) And you, O Beth'le·hem Eph'ra·thah, The one too little to be among the thousands of Judah, From you will come out for me the one to be ruler in Israel, Whose origin is from ancient times, from the days of long ago.

Paragraph 6

(Isaiah 53:8) Because of restraint and judgment he was taken away; And who will concern himself with the details of his generation? For he was cut off from the land of the living; Because of the transgression of my people he received the stroke.

(Luke 2:4-7) Of course, Joseph also went up from Gal'i·lee, from the city of Naz'a·reth, into Ju·de'a, to David's city, which is called Beth'le·hem, because of his being a member of the house and family of David. 5 He went to get registered with Mary, who had been given him in

marriage as promised and who was soon to give birth. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her son, the firstborn, and she wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the lodging place.

(Micah 5:2) And you, O Beth'le-hem Eph'ra-thah, The one too little to be among the thousands of Judah, From you will come out for me the one to be ruler in Israel, Whose origin is from ancient times, from the days of long ago.

Paragraph 7

(Acts 4:13) Now when they saw the outspokenness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were astonished. And they began to realize that they had been with Jesus.

Paragraph 8

(Luke 1:1-4) Seeing that many have undertaken to compile an account of the facts that are given full credence among us, 2 just as these were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and attendants of the message, 3 I resolved also, because I have traced all things from the start with accuracy, to write them to you in logical order, most excellent The·oph'i-lus, 4 so that you may know fully the certainty of the things that you have been taught orally.

(Acts 17:11) Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thes-sa-lo-ni'ca, for they accepted the word with the greatest eagerness of mind, carefully examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

Paragraph 9

(Matthew 16:1) Here the Pharisees and Sadducees approached him, and to test him,

they asked him to display to them a sign from heaven.

(Daniel 7:13, 14) “I kept watching in the visions of the night, and look! with the clouds of the heavens, someone like a son of man was coming; and he gained access to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him up close before that One. 14 And to him there were given rulership, honor, and a kingdom, that the peoples, nations, and language groups should all serve him. His rulership is an everlasting rulership that will not pass away, and his kingdom will not be destroyed.

(Matthew 16:4) A wicked and adulterous generation keeps seeking a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jo'nah.” With that he went away, leaving them behind.

Paragraph 10

(Isaiah 42:1, 2) Look! My servant, whom I support! My chosen one, whom I have approved! I have put my spirit in him; He will bring justice to the nations. 2 He will not cry out or raise his voice, And he will not make his voice heard in the street.

(Luke 23:8-11) When Herod saw Jesus, he rejoiced greatly. For a considerable time he had been wanting to see Jesus because he had heard much about him, and he was hoping to see some sign performed by him. 9 So he began to question him at length, but he gave him no answer. 10 However, the chief priests and the scribes kept standing up and vehemently accusing him. 11 Then Herod together with his soldiers treated him with contempt, and he mocked him by clothing him with a splendid garment and then sent him back to Pilate.

(Mark 1:38) But he said to them: “Let us go somewhere else, into the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also, for this is why I have come.”

Paragraph 12

(Romans 10:17) So faith follows the thing heard. In turn, what is heard is through the word about Christ.

(Hebrews 11:1) Faith is the assured expectation of what is hoped for, the evident demonstration of realities that are not seen.

(Hebrews 11:6) Moreover, without faith it is impossible to please God well, for whoever approaches God must believe that he is and that he becomes the rewarder of those earnestly seeking him.

Paragraph 13

(Matthew 9:14-17) Then John's disciples came to him and asked: "Why do we and the Pharisees practice fasting but your disciples do not fast?" 15 At this Jesus said to them: "The friends of the bridegroom have no reason to mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, do they? But days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. 16 Nobody sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old outer garment, for the new piece pulls away from the garment and the tear becomes worse. 17 Nor do people put new wine into old wineskins. If they do, then the wineskins burst and the wine spills out and the wineskins are ruined. But people put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

(Mark 3:1-6) Once again he entered into a synagogue, and a man with a withered hand was there. 2 So they were watching him closely to see whether he would cure the man on the Sabbath, in order to accuse him. 3 He said to the man with the withered hand: "Get up and come to the center." 4 Next he said to them: "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save a life or to kill?" But they kept silent. 5 After looking around at them with indignation, being thoroughly grieved at the insensibility of their

hearts, he said to the man: "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored. 6 At that the Pharisees went out and immediately began holding council with the party followers of Herod against him, in order to kill him.

(John 9:16) Some of the Pharisees then began to say: "This is not a man from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said: "How can a man who is a sinner perform signs of that sort?" So there was a division among them.

(Matthew 21:12, 13) Jesus entered the temple and threw out all those selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 And he said to them: "It is written, 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a cave of robbers."

(Matthew 21:15) When the chief priests and the scribes saw the marvelous things he did and the boys who were shouting in the temple, "Save, we pray, the Son of David!" they became indignant

(Luke 4:16) He then went to Naz'a-reth, where he had been brought up, and according to his custom on the Sabbath day, he entered the synagogue and stood up to read.

(Luke 4:25-30) For instance, I tell you in truth: There were many widows in Israel in the days of E-li'jah when heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and a great famine came on all the land. 26 Yet E-li'jah was sent to none of those women, but only to a widow in Zar'e-phath in the land of Si'don. 27 Also, there were many lepers in Israel in the time of E-li'sha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, only Na'a-man the Syrian." 28 Now all those hearing these things in the synagogue became filled with anger, 29 and they rose up and rushed him outside the city, and they led him to the brow of the mountain on which their city had been built,

in order to throw him down headlong. 30 But he went right through their midst and continued on his way.

(Matthew 11:16-19) “With whom will I compare this generation? It is like young children sitting in the marketplaces who call out to their playmates, 17 saying: ‘We played the flute for you, but you did not dance; we wailed, but you did not beat yourselves in grief.’ 18 Likewise, John came neither eating nor drinking, but people say, ‘He has a demon.’ 19 The Son of man did come eating and drinking, but people say, ‘Look! A man who is a glutton and is given to drinking wine, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ All the same, wisdom is proved righteous by its works.”

Paragraph 14

(Isaiah 29:13) Jehovah says: “This people approach me with their mouth And they honor me with their lips, But their heart is far removed from me; And their fear of me is based on commands of men that they have been taught.

Paragraph 15

(Mark 7:7-9) It is in vain that they keep worshipping me, for they teach commands of men as doctrines.’ 8 You let go of the commandment of God and cling to the tradition of men.” 9 Further, he said to them: “You skillfully disregard the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.

Paragraph 16

(Psalm 119:97) How I do love your law! I ponder over it all day long.

(Psalm 119:113) I hate the halfhearted ones, But I love your law.

(Psalm 119:163-165) I hate falsehood—I detest it— I love your law. 164 Seven times a

day I praise you Because of your righteous judgments. 165 Abundant peace belongs to those who love your law; Nothing can make them stumble.

Paragraph 17

(John 6:14, 15) When the people saw the sign he performed, they began to say: “This really is the Prophet who was to come into the world.” 15 Then Jesus, knowing that they were about to come and seize him to make him king, withdrew again to the mountain all alone.

Paragraph 18

(Isaiah 53:9) And he was given a burial place with the wicked, And with the rich in his death, Although he had done no wrong And there was no deception in his mouth.

(Isaiah 53:12) For that reason I will assign him a portion among the many, And he will apportion the spoil with the mighty, Because he poured out his life even to death And was counted among the transgressors; He carried the sin of many people, And he interceded for the transgressors.

(John 6:26, 27) Jesus answered them: “Most truly I say to you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate from the loaves and were satisfied. 27 Work, not for the food that perishes, but for the food that remains for everlasting life, which the Son of man will give you; for on this one the Father, God himself, has put his seal of approval.”

Paragraph 19

(1 Samuel 8:4-7) In time all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ra'mah. 5 They said to him: “Look! You have grown old, but your sons are not walking in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the other nations.” 6 But it displeased Samuel when they said: “Give us a king to judge us.”

Then Samuel prayed to Jehovah, 7 and Jehovah said to Samuel: “Listen to everything the people say to you; for it is not you whom they have rejected, but it is I whom they have rejected as their king.

Paragraph 20

(Matthew 7:21-23) “Not everyone saying to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the Kingdom of the heavens, but only the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will. 22 Many will say to me in that day: ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them: ‘I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness!’

(Matthew 28:19, 20) Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things.”