

But They Were Counted As A Strange Thing

I. Introduction:

A. In thinking about something strange, as it relates to this lesson, we are talking about something or someone foreign (i.e. **Numbers 26:61**, **Deuteronomy 32:16**, and **Psalms 69:8** [stranger]).

1. New or unheard (**Hebrews 13:9**).
2. A foreign place (**Hebrews 11:9**).
3. Even something that is or seems to be odd (**I Peter 4:12**).

B. What would you think if you heard a follower of the Lord saying that His word was strange, foreign, odd, etc.?

II. Body: **Hosea 8:1-14**

A. So, the word of God was like a foreigner to “God’s people.” What (**Deuteronomy 6:4-7**)?!?

1. It was the wicked that cast away God’s word (**Psalms 50:16-17**). What does that say about Israel at that time?
2. Aren’t God’s people supposed to know His word (**Deuteronomy 32:46**, **Matthew 11:27-30**, and **Colossians 3:16**)?
3. Aren’t God’s people supposed to value His word (**Psalms 19:7-10**, **Psalms 119:72**, **Psalms 119:97**, **Psalms 119:111**, **Psalms 119:127**, **Psalms 119:162**, **Psalms 119:165**, **Jeremiah 15:16**, and **Romans 7:22**, etc.)?
4. How did they, how could we, how could others get to that point? Consider.... **II Chronicles 36:14-16**, **Isaiah 8:20**, **Isaiah 30:8-11**, **Jeremiah 6:10** [reproach - disgrace, shame], **Nehemiah 9:25-29**, **Hosea 4:1-8**, **Romans 1:28**, **II Thessalonians 2:10**, **II Timothy 4:2-3**, and **Hebrews 3:7-4:2**).

B. Knowing the Lord is about understanding His word the right way (**John 5:19-39**).

1. There is a general knowledge that all have (**Hebrews 8:11**).
2. What we are talking about is the disappointing state of those who should intimately know Him, but do not (**I Corinthians 15:34**).
3. When you look back at Judah’s apostasy, they refused correction because they did not know the way of the Lord (**Jeremiah 4:22**; **5:1-4**).

C. Israel had a history of lip service (**Deuteronomy 5:28-29** and **Isaiah 29:13**).

1. Look at how walking according to their own ways went on into the future (**Romans 10:1-3**).
2. They were told not to walk in the ways of their fathers (**II Chronicles 30:7**).
3. Remember that we have these accounts for a reason (**Romans 15:4**).

III. Conclusion: So, what does it mean for us to know the Lord (**I John 2:3-6**)?

1. We have to keep growing in knowledge (**II Peter 3:18**).
2. We cannot ever allow ourselves to get to the point wherein God's word is foreign to us. Retain what you know (**Psalms 119:16**).
3. Not knowing... **II Thessalonians 1:7-9**