

John 6:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

Analysis

Their question 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?' shows familiarity breeding contempt. Knowing His earthly origins, they cannot fathom His heavenly origin. This illustrates how human reasoning based on natural knowledge can blind us to supernatural reality. The incarnation's scandal is precisely this: the eternal Word became flesh with identifiable human parents.

Historical Context

This objection appears throughout the Gospels (Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3). Knowledge of Jesus' family made His claims seem presumptuous. They couldn't reconcile His ordinary background with His extraordinary claims.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does familiarity sometimes blind us to recognizing God's work in ordinary circumstances?
2. What does their inability to accept Jesus' divine origin despite knowing His human family teach about the incarnation's mystery?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	λέγει	Οὐχ	οὗτός	ἐστιν	Ἰησοῦς	ὁ	υἱὸς	Ἰωσήφ
And	saith	not	that he	Is	Jesus	G3588	the son	of Joseph
G2532	G3004	G3756	G3778	G2076	G2424		G5207	G2501
οὗ	ἡμεῖς	οἶδαμεν	τὸν	πατέρα	καὶ	τὴν	μητέρα	πῶς
whose	we	know	G3588	father	And	G3588	mother	how is it
G3739	G2249	G1492		G3962	G2532		G3384	G4459
οὖν	λέγει	οὗτός	ὅτι	Ἐκ	τοῦ	οὐρανοῦ	καταβέβηκα	
then	saith	that he	G3754	from	G3588	heaven	I came down	
G3767	G3004	G3778		G1537		G3772	G2597	

Additional Cross-References

Luke 4:22 (Parallel theme): And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

Mark 6:3 (Parallel theme): 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.