

# 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

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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

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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

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**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

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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

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καὶ λέγει Οὐχ οὗτός ἐστιν Ἰησοῦς ὁ υἱὸς Ἰωσήφ  
And saith not that he Is Jesus the son of Joseph  
G2532 G3004 G3756 G3778 G2076 G2424 G3588 G5207 G2501

οὗ ἡμεῖς οἶδαμεν τὸν πατέρα καὶ τὴν μητέρα πῶς  
whose we know father And mother how is it  
G3739 G2249 G1492 G3588 G3962 G2532 G3384 G4459

οὖν λέγει οὗτός ὅτι Ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καταβέβηκα  
then saith that he G3754 from G1537 G3588 heaven I came down  
G3767 G3004 G3778 G1537 G3772 G2597

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.