

Luke 4:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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?

Analysis

And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. The Greek *emartyroun* (ἐμαρτύρουν, bore witness) and *ethaumazon* (ἐθαύμαζον, were wondering/marveling) describe the synagogue's initial positive response to Jesus' teaching. The phrase *logois tēs charitos* (λόγοις τῆς χάριτος, words of grace) emphasizes the gracious, attractive quality of Jesus' proclamation—God's kingdom comes as gift, not burden. Yet this admiration proves superficial.

And they said, Is not this Joseph's son? The question reveals cognitive dissonance—how can someone they've known since childhood claim messianic fulfillment? The Greek construction expects a positive answer: "This is Joseph's son, isn't he?" Their familiarity breeds contempt. They cannot reconcile the carpenter's son with the prophesied Messiah. This marks the beginning of their shift from wonder to hostility, culminating in attempted murder (v. 29).

Historical Context

Nazareth was a small Galilean village of perhaps 400 people. Everyone knew everyone's family. Jesus had grown up among these synagogue attendees as Joseph's son, working as a carpenter (Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3). First-century Jewish culture emphasized family identity and trade inheritance. The crowd's question reflects their inability to see beyond Jesus' humble origins—a pattern

repeated throughout His ministry (John 6:42, 7:27-28). Messiah was expected to appear in glory, not grow up among them in obscurity.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does familiarity with Jesus prevent genuine faith, and what does this teach about the danger of presumption?
2. Why is it significant that the crowd admired Jesus' 'words of grace' yet still rejected His messianic claim?
3. In what ways do you struggle to see Jesus clearly because of overfamiliarity or preconceived expectations?

Interlinear Text

καὶ πάντες ἐμαρτύρουν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐθαύμαζον ἐπὶ ὃ
And **all** **bare** **him** **And** **wondered** **at** **which**
G2532 G3956 G3140 G846 G2532 G2296 G1909 G3588

λόγοις ὃ χάριτος ὃ ἐκπορευομένοις ἐκ ὃ
words **which** **the gracious** **which** **proceeded** **out of** **which**
G3056 G3588 G5485 G3588 G1607 G1537 G3588

στόματος αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔλεγον Οὐχ οὗτος ἐστὶν ὃ υἱός
mouth **him** **And** **they said** **not** **this** **Is** **which** **son**
G4750 G846 G2532 G3004 G3756 G3778 G2076 G3588 G5207

Ἰωσήφ

Joseph's
G2501

Additional Cross-References

John 6:42 (Parallel theme): 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?

Psalms 45:2 (Grace): Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.

Proverbs 16:21 (Parallel theme): The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

Isaiah 50:4 (Word): The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

Acts 6:10 (Parallel theme): And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

Psalms 45:4 (Parallel theme): And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.

Proverbs 10:32 (Parallel theme): The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.

Proverbs 25:11 (Word): A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

John 7:46 (Parallel theme): The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

Luke 21:15 (Parallel theme): For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.