

# Luke 4:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.

## Analysis

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**Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself.** Jesus anticipates their objection using a common Greek proverb: *iatre, therapeuson seauton* (ἰατρέ, θεράπευσον σεαυτόν). The proverb meant "practice what you preach" or "prove yourself first at home." They demand Jesus demonstrate in Nazareth the miracles they've heard He performed in Capernaum.

**Whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.** The phrase *en tē patriidi sou* (ἐν τῇ πατρίδι σου, in your hometown/fatherland) emphasizes Jesus' connection to Nazareth. They claim priority based on Jesus' origins—"You owe us miracles since we're your people." But Jesus refuses to perform signs on demand to satisfy skeptical curiosity. Faith precedes miracles, not vice versa. Their demand reveals entitled unbelief masquerading as openness.

## Historical Context

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Capernaum, a fishing village on Galilee's northern shore, had become Jesus' ministry base (Matthew 4:13). News of His miracles there had reached Nazareth, creating expectations. The demand for hometown miracles reflects a patronage mindset common in ancient Mediterranean culture—family and hometown should benefit first from one's success. Jesus' refusal violated cultural expectations, but He would not validate unbelief with signs. Mark 6:5-6 records that Jesus "could do

no mighty work" in Nazareth because of their unbelief—not inability but unwillingness to cast pearls before swine.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Why does Jesus refuse to perform miracles on demand for skeptics, and what does this teach about the relationship between faith and signs?
2. How does the 'Physician, heal thyself' mentality reveal a consumer approach to Jesus rather than genuine faith?
3. In what ways do you demand that God prove Himself before you trust Him, rather than trusting Him first?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	εἶπεν	πρὸς	αὐτούς	Πάντως	ἐρεῖτέ	μοι	τὴν
And	he said	unto	them	surely	Ye will	unto me	G3588
G2532	G2036	G4314	G846	G3843	G2046	G3427	
παραβολὴν	ταύτην·	Ἰατρέ	θεράπευσον	σεαυτόν·	ὅσα		
proverb	G3778	Physician	heal	thyself	whatsoever		
G3850		G2395	G2323	G4572	G3745		
ἠκούσαμεν	γενόμενα	ἐν	τῇ	Καπερναούμ,	ποίησον	καὶ	
we have heard	done	in	G3588	Capernaum	do	And	
G191	G1096	G1722		G2584	G4160	G2532	
ὧδε	ἐν	τῇ	πατρίδι	σου			
here	in	G3588	country	thy			
G5602	G1722		G3968	G4675			

