

# Matthew 13:54

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

## Analysis

**When he was come into his own country** (εἰς τὴν πατρίδα αὐτοῦ)—The πατρίς (homeland, native place) refers to Nazareth (Mark 6:1; Luke 4:16), where Jesus grew up (Matthew 2:23). This return occurs after extensive Galilean ministry, making their rejection more culpable. **He taught them in their synagogue**—Despite knowing He would face rejection (Luke 4:24), Jesus faithfully proclaimed truth. The imperfect ἐδίδασκεν ('He was teaching') suggests sustained instruction, not a single sermon.

**Insomuch that they were astonished** (ὥστε ἐκπλήσσεσθαι αὐτούς)—The verb ἐκπλήσσω means 'to strike out of one's senses, astound.' Their amazement stemmed from cognitive dissonance: they knew His humble origins but witnessed divine wisdom and power. **Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?** (πόθεν τούτῳ ἡ σοφία αὕτη καὶ αἱ δυνάμεις;)—The σοφία (sophia, wisdom) parallels Solomon's reputation (1 Kings 4:29-34), while δυνάμεις (dynameis, 'mighty works, miracles') attests supernatural authority. Yet instead of faith, familiarity bred contempt (v. 57).

## Historical Context

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Synagogue worship in first-century Judaism included Torah reading, prophetic texts, and exposition by respected teachers. Jesus's habit was to attend synagogue (Luke 4:16), where His teaching astonished hearers (Matthew 7:28-29) because He taught with authority, not like the scribes who relied on rabbinic tradition. Nazareth's rejection fulfilled the pattern that prophets face greatest resistance from those who knew them in obscurity (Luke 4:24).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. Why does familiarity with Jesus's humanity sometimes blind people to His deity?
2. How can you guard against the contempt of familiarity in your relationship with Christ and Scripture?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἐλθὼν	εἰς	τὴν	πατρίδα	αὐτοὺς	ἐδίδασκεν
And	when he was come	into	G3588	country	their	he taught
G2532	G2064	G1519		G3968	G846	G1321
αὐτοὺς	ἐν	τῇ	συναγωγῇ	αὐτοὺς	ὥστε	
their	in	G3588	synagogue	their	insomuch that	
G846	G1722		G4864	G846	G5620	
ἐκπλήττεσθαι	αὐτοὺς	καὶ	λέγειν	Πόθεν	τούτῳ	ἡ
they were astonished	their	And	said	Whence	hath this man	G3588
G1605	G846	G2532	G3004	G4159	G5129	
σοφία	αὕτη	καὶ	αἱ	δυνάμεις		
wisdom	this	And	G3588	these mighty works		
G4678	G3778	G2532		G1411		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 7:28** (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

**Psalms 22:22** (Parallel theme): I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

**Matthew 4:23** (Parallel theme): And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

**Matthew 2:23** (Parallel theme): And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.