

Matthew 13:56

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

Analysis

And his sisters, are they not all with us? (καὶ αἱ ἀδελφαὶ αὐτοῦ οὐχὶ πᾶσαι πρὸς ἡμᾶς εἰσιν;)—The plural ἀδελφαί (sisters) and the word πᾶσαι ('all') suggest at least two or three sisters, making Jesus part of a large family (at least seven siblings total). **Are they not all with us?** emphasizes ongoing local residence —'these people are still here, still ordinary.' The phrase πρὸς ἡμᾶς ('with us, among us') stresses familiarity: 'We know these people; they're our neighbors.'

Whence then hath this man all these things? (πόθεν οὖν τούτῳ ταῦτα πάντα;)—The repeated question (cf. v. 54) shows they were asking the right question but refusing the obvious answer. The πόθεν ('from where, from what source') demanded they acknowledge either divine origin or demonic power. They chose a third option: offense (v. 57). The inferential οὖν ('therefore, then') shows they're drawing a conclusion from the evidence, but the wrong one—that His humble origins disqualify Him from divine authority.

Historical Context

Women in first-century Palestine lived more private lives than men, so the sisters remain unnamed. Their mention demonstrates how thoroughly the townspeople knew Jesus's family. The text provides important counter-evidence to later Gnostic claims that Jesus was a purely spiritual being or that He descended into Jesus of Nazareth at His baptism. The incarnation means the eternal Son truly took on human nature in a specific family in a specific town.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Why do people often reject what they can explain naturally (Jesus's humanity) rather than accept what the evidence demands (His deity)?
2. How does familiarity with Christianity's 'ordinary' trappings (church buildings, rituals) sometimes blind modern people to Christ's extraordinary power?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	αἱ	ἀδελφαὶ	αὐτοῦ	οὐχὶ	πάντα	πρὸς	ἡμᾶς	εἰσιν
And G2532	G3588	sisters G79	his G846	not G3780	all G3956	with G4314	us G2248	are they G1526
πόθεν	οὖν	τούτῳ	ταῦτα	πάντα				
Whence G4159	then G3767	hath this man G5129	these things G5023	all G3956				

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