

Thursday after Epiphany

Gospel text (Lk 4:14-22): Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all. He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, (...) the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth (...).

Revelation of Jesus' origin

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

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Today, the people in Nazareth express their appreciation - which eventually will end up in disbelief - because they perceive that Jesus had expounded the words of Sacred Scripture not in the customary manner, but by relating them to Himself and His mission with an authority that went beyond the bounds of all exegesis. The listeners were understandably shocked by this treatment of Scripture... and at the synagogue shock led to denial: "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?"

However, simultaneously, they were wondering: "where did He get all this wisdom? (...). And such miracles as these performed by his hands?" (Mk 6:2). The origin of Jesus is at the same time notorious and unknown.

—The Four Gospels set out to answer these questions. Matthew opens his Gospel with the Jesus' genealogy; he wants to put the question of Jesus' provenance in the correct light from the very beginning: the genealogy serves as a kind of heading for the entire Gospel. Luke, on the other hand, places Jesus' genealogy at the beginning of His public ministry, as a kind of public presentation of Jesus, in anticipation of all that is about to be narrated.