

Christ's Family No. 185

Introduction.

I. I call your attention this evening to the reading of two passages of scripture from the gospel of Matthew.

The first is Matthew 1:18-25. After Matthew had given the genealogy of Jesus through Joseph, he wrote.

MAT 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins." 22 Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." 24 And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife, 25 and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

The second passage is Matthew 12:46-50.

MAT 12:46 ¶ While He was still speaking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. 47 And someone said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You." 48 But He answered the one who was telling Him and said, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" 49 And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Behold, My mother and My brothers! 50 "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

II. In this passage we learn about the physical family of Jesus.

- A. It is wonderful blessing to have a family. . It is a source of comfort, strength, and encouragement. It is a source of happiness and love.
- B. Jesus experienced the blessing of having a physical family.
 - 1. The Bible clearly teaches Jesus became flesh. (Jn. 1:14).
 - 2. According to the passage we read earlier, Jesus was born to the virgin Mary through the conception of the Holy Spirit.

I. **The Family Of Jesus** - Let us look at what we know about the family of Jesus.

A. The Bible tells us that **His mother was Mary of Nazareth in Galilee.**

- 1. Mary was a descendant of Abraham through king David. (Lk. 3:23).
- 2. The **angel Gabriel** tells us she was an exceptional lady. She was not sinless, but the angel said. she was a woman of high esteem.

LUK 1:28 And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."

LUK 1:30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

- 3. Her "cousin" or "kinsman" Elizabeth said to her.

LUK 1:42 "Blessed among women are you, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

LUK 1:45 "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."

- 4. Later **Mary** said of herself, **"...henceforth all generations will call me blessed."** (Lk 1:48).
- 5. Mary was indeed a wonderful lady who had the exalted privilege of giving birth to the Son of God.
- 6 **She raised Jesus from birth to manhood.** Once He became a man she respected His authority. She stood by His Son even at the cross. (Jn. 19:25).

B. The Bible tells us that His **legal father was Joseph.** (Matt. 1).

MAT 1:16 and to Jacob was born Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

- 1. Joseph was also a descendant of Abraham and David. (Matt. 1).
- 2. This carpenter was also from Nazareth of Galilee
- 3. Though Joseph was not the biological son of Jesus, Joseph treated Him as his own Son.
- 4. **We do not know what happened to Joseph.** The Bible is silent about him during the ministry of Christ. It is possible he had died. We may conjecture he died before the commencement of the public ministry of Christ. The last clear reference to Joseph is when he and Mary and Jesus went to the Passover feast in Jerusalem. The Bible tells us Jesus was 12 at the time, and He did not begin His public ministry until He was 30.

C. **The Bible tells us that Jesus was the oldest of at least 7 children.**

1. This is first implied by the language of the scriptures. (Matt. 1:25).
 - a. Joseph did not "know" (a euphemism for sexual relations) with her "until" the birth of Jesus.
 - b. Jesus was her "firstborn Son", the term firstborn implying there were more. (Lk. 2:7).
2. Jesus had 4 brothers and at least 2 sisters. (Matt. 13:55; Mk. 6:3).

MAT 13:55 "Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 "And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"

MAR 6:3 "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James, and Joses [Joseph], and Judas, and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him.

3. The Bible tells us that His **brothers did not believe in Him**. (Jn. 7:5).
 - a. They knew Jesus was very special, but doubted their brother, who grew up in their poor home in Nazareth, could be the Messiah, the Son of God.
 - b. Would the Son of God live in such poverty and lowly circumstances as they did?
4. **The Bible informs us that they became believers.**
 - a. They were changed from unbelievers to believers by the resurrection of Jesus.
 - b. After the resurrection of Jesus they are numbered with the believers. (Acts 1:12-14).

ACT 1:12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. 13 And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. 14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

- c. **The conversion of His physical brothers**, who were at first skeptical, is additional evidence supporting the claim of Jesus as the Son of God
- d. The Bible tells us that Jesus appeared to **James**, the Lord's brother. (1 Cor. 15:7).
- e. The Bible teaches us that His brother **James became a great leader** in the early church. He is the one who led the great Jerusalem Conference recorded in Acts 15. He is called an "apostle" in Galatians 1:19.
- f. He is the James most scholars believe **wrote the book of James**.
- g. According to many scholars, His brother **Jude** probably wrote the book of Jude.

h. His brothers were all gospel preachers. (1 Cor. 9:5). Paul tells us the brothers of Jesus were married and when they preached took along their wives as did Peter and other apostles. Paul said he had the same right but did not exercise it. (1 Cor. 9:15).

D. According to our thinking it would be a **blessing beyond description** to be a member of the physical family of Jesus. But though Jesus loved His parents and His brothers and sisters, He taught this was nothing compared to being a member of His spiritual family. Being a member of His physical family did not give one a place in heaven.

1. The Jews boasted of being Abraham's descendants and thought salvation belonged to them on that basis, but Jesus deflated them by saying. (Matt. 3:9).

2. The same words could be addressed to the physical family of Jesus.

II. **His Spiritual Family** - Jesus put emphasis on His spiritual family.

A. Jesus identified the disciples, those doing the will of God as His true family - (Matt. 12:50).

B. Physical families are temporary and they cannot save us.

C. The important thing is doing the will of God. (Matt. 6:11; Jn. 4:30; 7:21; 1 Jn. 2:17).

D. Jesus taught it might be necessary to leave our physical family to be a part of His spiritual family. (Matt. 10:37, 38).

III. **The Church Today Is The Spiritual Family Of Jesus** - The church today is the spiritual family of Jesus.

A. Jesus told Peter that His disciples would have "a hundredfold" brothers, sisters, and mothers in this lifetime. (Mk 10:28-30).

B. This is an allusion to the church, which is now "the household (family) of God". (1 Tim 3:15).

C. **It is wonderful to be a part of the family of Christ.**

1. It is wonderful to have millions of brothers and sisters.

2. It is wonderful to enjoy the immense blessings of God.

Conclusion.

I. Here is another wonderful fact. Everyone can be a part of Jesus' spiritual family. This privilege is not limited to a few select people, but is given to everyone who does the will of God.

II. **It is the will of God that we believe on His Son.**

A. **It is the will of God that we deny ourselves.** It is the will of God that we turn from our sins. It is the will of God that we be born of the water and the Spirit. It is the will of God that we follow the teachings of His beloved Son.

B. All who do these things are a part of the spiritual family of God and will enjoy the blessings of God in

heaven forever.

III. You are invited to come to Jesus now. Jesus wants to save you and make you a part of His spiritual family. Will you come to God through Jesus as we stand and sing?

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