

Jesus and New Family Values

Whatever happened to good 'ole family values?

Did Jesus really say “If any one comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife & children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26). Did he really tell a disciple recruit who wanted first to go back and give his father a proper burial, “Let the dead bury the dead”(Luke 9:60)? First, relax, we’ll see through this!

Yes, there were tense misunderstandings at times between Jesus and His Family.

Is this an intervention? **Mark 3:20-21** “He came home. Again the crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat. ***When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”***

Is He being dismissive of them? **Mark 3:32-35** “A crowd seated around Jesus told him, “Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside asking for you.” But he said to them in reply, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

Remember getting lost at Temple? Tension seemed to start early-**Luke 2:48-51** “When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Son, *why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.*” And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and ***was obedient to them***; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.” ***He is a good kid, though!***
But is this a theme? **John 2:4** “Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.”

Yes, Jesus did seem to call disciples away from family at times.

Mark 1:18 “Then they (Peter & Andrew) abandoned their nets and followed him.”

Mark 1:20 “Jesus called them (James & John). So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.”

These followers did not just leave family, but also family businesses/livelihoods. But wait and see, the break is not complete as you might think. Jesus will keep close to the water and call upon these disciples’ old fishing resources again (*So many times Jesus will pick up uber-boat rides as in Mark 4:1, 6:45, 8:10 etc, or when he calls in some fish supplies for His miraculous feeding Mark 6:38-And ask, “Who did he get them from but old fishing contacts?”*)

YET, Jesus always provides for family and so much more! In all of this family talk Jesus is only broadening filial relationship and extending proper love among kinfolk to everyone (who is my neighbor? Luke 10:29-whoever is in need?)

Jesus is so tender with family, as seen at His cross, when he provides a 'care arrangement' for His mother after His death in John 19:26-27 "When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home."

Also, Jesus reunited Widow and Son at Nain, when he raised the son back to life.

(Luke 7:15 "The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.")

Also, Jesus told parables of reuniting families in Luke 15:11 'Prodigal Son', John 11:1 'Lazarus'

Jesus is revealing the Kingdom of new expanded baptismal family of Christ!

Mark 9:36-37 "Taking a child he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

Mark 3:35 "Whoever does will of my Father, is brother, sister and mother to me."

Luke 18:16-17 "Jesus, however, called the children to himself and said, "Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." (A new way to grow family!)

Matthew 25:40 "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

And what about family you may be away from for a while? Keep in mind that God gave you family or gave you to your family. So, God will provide for their needs! Maybe by you; maybe not! But God will provide!

Matthew 6:26 "Your heavenly Father feeds the birds of the sky. Are not you more important than they?"

Matthew 19:27, 29 "Peter said to Jesus, "***We have given up everything*** and followed you. What will there be for us?" Jesus said, "***Everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children*** or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life."

Keep with it, God is in control!

Jesus is also revealing the futility of claiming power family pedigree as 'get into heaven' card!

---Jesus exposes erroneously bad faith of claiming filiation with 'saved & chosen bloodlines' or claiming privilege and salvation based on 'old world' family heritage/name.

---Think of the high born presumption and pedigreed racism of the **Herod Dynasty**, or the **Caesar Palace**. Jesus is telling them by example, 'Your Name won't save you'!

Luke 13:32 "Jesus said, "Go and tell that fox Herod, 'Behold, I cast out demons and I perform healings today and tomorrow, and on the third day I accomplish my purpose.'"

Foxes are scoundrel scavengers dealing in death, but Jesus works/feeds and brings life

Luke 7:25 "What did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine garments? Those who dress luxuriously and live sumptuously are found in royal palaces." Herod's wealth IGG

Mark 12:17 "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, but give to God what belongs to God"

John 19:12 "Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." (John 28:36 "My kingdom does not belong to this world."- also, John 19:12 'Friend of Caesar?')

Even religious folks can 'drop names' and kin connection to bully salvation

Matthew 3:9 "Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'

For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones." *They are claiming kinship to Abraham as if bloodline alone saves them.*

John 9:28 ""You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses!" ***Name drop Moses***

Yet, Jesus points out, "For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me, because he wrote about me." (John 5:46)