

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

May 12, 2019

Jesus' Family

by Frank Himmel

Think about Jesus' family.



Physical Family

Jesus' mother was Mary. She was likely from the tribe of Judah, and she was somehow related to Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother (Luke 1:36). Mary conceived Jesus while she was still a virgin (Luke 1:34-35). Her willingness to do so is a great compliment to her faith and humility. She was evidently poor (Luke 2:22-24; cf. Leviticus 12:8).

After Jesus' birth the Bible mentions Mary only on a few occasions: when she and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem when He was twelve (Luke 2:41-51), at a wedding in Cana where Jesus worked His first miracle (John 2:1-11), once when she visited Jesus in Galilee (Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21), at the cross (John 19:25-27), and in a gathering of disciples following Jesus' resurrection (Acts 1:12-14).

Jesus' step-father was Joseph. He was of the tribe of Judah (Matthew 1:16) and was a righteous man (v. 19). He was betrothed to Mary when Jesus was born, but they had not yet come together. He therefore sought to put her away when he learned she was pregnant, but when an angel informed him of the truth he proceeded with the marriage plans as instructed

(Matthew 1:18-25). Joseph was a carpenter (Matthew 13:55). He is not mentioned after the visit to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve. That, coupled with Jesus' instructions about Mary's care (John 19:25-27), suggests Joseph died before Jesus' public ministry.

Jesus also had brothers and sisters (Matthew 13:55; Mark 3:31; 6:3), some of whom are named: James, Joseph, Simon, Judas. Early on they did not believe in Jesus (John 7:5), but later they did (Galatians 1:19; cf. Jude 1:1).

Spiritual Family

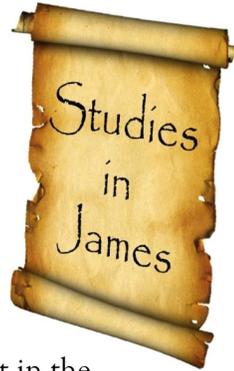
When Jesus' physical family came to visit Him in Galilee, He viewed the crowd listening to Him preach and said, "Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:34-35).

Jesus is uniquely God's Son, but God wants us all to be His children. His plan is for us to be adopted into His family so we can share the inheritance with Christ (Romans 8:15-17). Jesus died for us so that He could share with us!

God's family is the church (1 Timothy 3:15), which is Christ's body (Colossians 1:18). God adds us to that body when by faith we repent and are baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38-41, 47). Salvation, church membership, and discipleship all go hand-in-hand. When we are conformed to the image of Jesus—both now and in eternity—it makes Him the firstborn among many brethren (Romans 8:29). Are you in Jesus' family? ■

Caution, Teachers

by Frank Himmel



James 3:1-12 is a well-known paragraph about controlling our tongues, but it is not a new subject in the book. Earlier, James cautioned us to be “slow to speak” (1:19) and warned that failure to bridle our tongues makes our religion worthless (1:26). He has also given several illustrations of foolish speech: preferential language in welcoming visitors (2:3), professing a faith which in fact has no works (2:14), and offering empty words of comfort to the poor (2:15-16).

Verse 1 establishes the context of James’s ensuing discussion: “Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.” That statement is a thought-provoking counterpart to the rebuke of Hebrews 5:12, “By this time you ought to be teachers...” James did not want to discourage the development of teachers. He wanted to encourage their proper development; to ensure that all who undertake the work understand what it involves and its gravity.

Teaching is a vital function. The lost must be taught the saving gospel of Jesus Christ, new Christians must be trained how to live as Jesus’ disciples, growing Christians need to be instructed in the faith-building

meatier matters of Scripture, and mature brethren must be reminded of all these things. We need good teachers!

What we do not need is teachers like those Paul described in 1 Timothy 1:7, those who are “wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.” Teachers who are selfishly motivated or unskillful or uninformed or poor personal examples can do a great deal of harm, both to themselves and their students. Jesus succinctly said, “And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit” (Matthew 15:14b).

James does not make any more direct references to teachers in this paragraph. His remarks about the tongue are generally applicable. Just keep in mind as you study this section that his primary application is to teachers. And notice that James includes himself in that application: “we will incur a stricter judgment.” The first lesson every teacher needs to learn is to apply the Scripture to himself before attempting to teach it to others. ■

“He is a poor preacher that cannot preach better than he can practice, but he is a poorer preacher if he does not try hard to live up to his preaching.”

-- R. L. Whiteside



Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday	Wednesday
GREETER	Adam Gibson	Bruce Williams
SONG LEADER	Sam Walters	Brian Wilson
OPENING PRAYER	Steven Turner	
LORD’S SUPPER		
BREAD	Carlos Garcia	
CUP	Justin Candella	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Gary Hagler	
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Singing
CLOSING PRAYER	Stephen Lefort	Steven Turner