

What Does Jesus Say About Family?

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Emphasis & Notes Added

Mark 3:20-35:

20 The crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and his disciples] could not even eat. **21** When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind."

(Note: Remember Mark has no birth story of Jesus, so Mark isn't surprised that Jesus' family do not understand Jesus or his mission.

Thus, this passage is only in Mark.)

22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." **23** And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? **24** If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. **25** And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. **26** And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. **27** But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. **28** "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; **29** but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— **30** for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

31 Then Jesus' mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. **32** A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." **33** And he replied, "**Who are my mother and my brothers?**" **34** And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "**Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.**"

(Note: Jesus does not include "father" in his list of family members.

For Jesus, there is only one father, "Our Father in heaven. . .")

Mark 7:6-13:

6 Jesus said to the Pharisees and scribes, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; **7** in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' **8** You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." **9** Then he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! **10** For Moses said, '**Honor your father and your mother**'; and, '**Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.**' **11** But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, '**Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban**' (that is, an offering to God)— **12** then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, **13** thus making void the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this."

Mark 10:2-12:

2 Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" **3** He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" **4** They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." **5** But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. **6** But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' **7** '**For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8** and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. **9** Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." **10** Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. **11** He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; **12** and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

Mark 10:17-31:

17 As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" **18** Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. **19** You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; **Honor your father**

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and mother.' " **20** He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." **21** Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." **22** When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. **23** Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" **24** And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! **25** It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." **26** They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" **27** Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." **28** Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." **29** Jesus said, "**Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.** **31** But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Mark 12:18-27:

18 Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and asked him a question, saying, **19** "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no child, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. **20** There were seven brothers; the first married and, when he died, left no children; **21** and the second married the widow and died, leaving no children; and the third likewise; **22** none of the seven left children. Last of all the woman herself died. **23** In the resurrection whose wife will she be? For the seven had married her." **24** Jesus said to them, "Is not this the reason you are wrong, that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God? **25** **For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage,** but are like angels in heaven. **26** And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? **27** He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong."

Matthew 5:9: Jesus is speaking. . .

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called **sons of God.**" (RSV)

(Note: Jesus uses the same words for "sons of God" here as are used about Jesus himself.)

Matthew 5:43-48:

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **44** But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** so that you may be **sons of your Father** who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. **46** For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? **48** You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (RSV)

(Note: Jesus uses the same words for "sons of your Father" here as are used about Jesus himself.)

Matthew 5:27-32:

27 "You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery.' **28** But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **29** If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into Gehenna. **30** And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into Gehenna. **31** "It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' **32** But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

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(Note: Is Jesus saying that women don't lust by not addressing them?

Or, does Jesus have a particular point to make to men in his 1st century society?)

(Note: It is interesting that in the 1st century, Roman law allowed women to divorce their husbands.

Why, then, does Jesus not address women divorcing their husbands?)

Matthew 8:18-22:

18 Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. **19** A scribe then approached and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." **20** And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." **21** Another of his disciples said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." **22** But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Matthew 10:34-39: Jesus is speaking. . .

34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35** For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; **36** and one's foes will be members of one's own household. **37** **Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;** **38** and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. **39** Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

Matthew 12:46-50:

46 While Jesus was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. **47** Someone told him, "Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." **48** But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, "**Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?**" **49** And pointing to his disciples, he said, "**Here are my mother and my brothers!** **50** **For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.**"

(Note: Jesus does not include "father" in his list of family members.

For Jesus, there is only one father, "Our Father in heaven. . .")

Matthew 15:1-9:

1 Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, **2** "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before they eat." **3** He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? **4** For God said, "**Honor your father and your mother,**" and, "**Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.**" **5** **But you say that whoever tells father or mother, "Whatever support you might have had from me is given to God," then that person need not honor the father. **6** So, for the sake of your tradition, you make void the word of God. **7** You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said: **8** "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; **9** in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines." "**

Matthew 19:3-12:

3 Some Pharisees came to Jesus, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?" **4** He answered, "Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning "made them male and female," **5** and said, "**For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?**" **6** So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." **7** They said to him, "Why then did Moses command us to give a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her?" **8** He said to them, "It was because you were so hard-hearted that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. **9** And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another commits adultery." **10** His disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." **11** But he said to them, "Not everyone can accept this teaching, but only those to whom it is given. **12** For

there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let anyone accept this who can."

(Note: It is interesting that in the 1st century, Roman law allowed women to divorce their husbands. Why, then, does Jesus not address women divorcing their husbands?)

Matthew 19:16-22:

16 Then someone came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"
17 And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." **18** He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; **19 Honor your father and mother;** also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **20** The young man said to him, "I have kept all these; what do I still lack?" **21** Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." **22** When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions."

Matthew 19:23-30:

23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. **24** Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." **25** When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, "Then who can be saved?" **26** But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible." **27** Then Peter said in reply, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" **28** Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life.** **30** But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Matthew 22:23-33:

23 The same day some Sadducees came to Jesus, saying there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying, **24** "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother.' **25** Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. **26** The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. **27** Last of all, the woman herself died. **28** In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her." **29** Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. **30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.** **31** And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, **32** 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is God not of the dead, but of the living." **33** And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching."

Matthew 25:31-46: Jesus is speaking. . .

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. **32** All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, **33** and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. **34** Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; **35** for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, **36** I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' **37** Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you

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food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? **38** And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? **39** And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' **40** And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' **41** Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; **42** for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, **43** I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' **44** Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' **45** Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' **46** And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Luke 6:27-36: Jesus is speaking. . .

27 "But I say to you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. **29** To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. **30** Give to every one who begs from you; and of him who takes away your goods do not ask them again. **31** And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. **32** "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. **33** And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **34** And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. **35** But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be **sons of the Most High**; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. **36** Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." (RSV)

(Note: Jesus uses the same words for "sons of the Most High" here as are used about Jesus himself.)

Luke 8:19-21:

19 Then Jesus' mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. **20** And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you." **21** But he said to them, "**My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.**"

Luke 9:57-62:

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." **58** And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." **59** To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." **60** But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." **61** Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." **62** Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 12:13-14:

13 Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." **14** But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?"

Luke 12:49-53: Jesus is speaking. . .

49 "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! **50** I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! **51** Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! **52** From now on **five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three**; **53** they will be divided: **father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.**"

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Luke 14:25-35:

25 Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, **26 "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 27** Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. **28** For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? **29** Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, **30** saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." **31** Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? **32** If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. **33** So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions. **34** "Salt is good; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? **35** It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; they throw it away. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

Luke 18:18-30:

18 A certain ruler asked Jesus, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" **19** Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. **20** You know the commandments: "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; **Honor your father and mother.**" **21** He replied, "I have kept all these since my youth." **22** When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." **23** But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. **24** Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! **25** Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." **26** Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" **27** He replied, "What is impossible for mortals is possible for God." **28** Then Peter said, "Look, we have left our homes and followed you." **29** And he said to them, "**Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, 30 who will not get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.**"

Luke 20:27-38:

27 There came to Jesus some Sadducees, those who say that there is no resurrection, **28** and they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the wife and raise up children for his brother. **29** Now there were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and died without children; **30** and the second **31** and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. **32** Afterward the woman also died. **33** In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife." **34** And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage; **35** but **those who are accounted worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, 36** for they cannot die any more, because they are equal to angels and are **sons of God**, being sons of the resurrection. **37** But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. **38** Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living; for all live to him." (RSV)

(Note: Jesus uses the same words for "sons of God" here as are used about Jesus himself.)

John 19:25b-27:

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "**Woman, here is your son.**" **27** Then he said to the disciple, "**Here is your mother.**" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.