

Jesus Loves the Family

1. **Our Families**
2. **His Family**

*Jesus Loves the Family*

- Think about way felt, emotions had: parents, baby born; spouses, married; dearly loved family members (parents, sibs, n/n, a/u); someone you've lost, death of grandparent, some other. We love family.
- I hope we do; usually. Sometimes don't. Sometimes love but not like; sometimes want nothing to do with them. Sometimes: kids give parents such hard time, just pull hair out, don't know, but send on way; thought of spouse (esp ex) elicits such bitter feelings that try to forget, live life without giving them thought; can't stand bro/sis; some go to funeral for fam, glad they're gone. Why this dynamic in fam? You know: sin, power of Satan, who constantly has fam in crosshairs. Satan hates fam because knows God intended faith/family to go hand/hand. God's design: spouses love, share faith, bring up children in faith; safe place, filled with love from God, for God, for one another. So Satan attacks families mercilessly, because if he can demolish family, also demolish faith of many, bring to hell. Satan hates family.
- But Jesus loves family. Focus of service, sermon. In Gospel, vs. 6-9. That was God's plan for family, going all way back in Garden Eden, when God joined A&E in marriage; everything perfect. But Satan's very first attack on this world was against family; marriage first target. So, vs. 9. God brings families together; created family; wrote blueprints for family; Jesus loves the family: ours, his.

Jesus Loves Our Families

- Loves our families (family units we live in – h/w, p/c). Loves our families so much that for him blessing, protecting our families is a huge priority. Today's lessons emphasize 3 ways Jesus blesses, protects our families:
 1. Protects from divorce. Gospel says, vs. 2-5. In other words, "civil legislation allows (like today); doesn't mean morally right." What's right is vs. 9. Sensitive subject, painful subject. If marriage is 2 becoming 1, then divorce is violent ripping apart of 1 into 2, as gruesome as ripping human in half. Causes so much pain for so many: for spouses, families, children. And sin; Jesus says divorce is sin for those who willfully cause it w/o Scriptural grounds. There are circumstances when Christian can seek God-pleasing divorce; but those exceptions. On the whole, Jesus wants spouses to stay together because Jesus loves our families, doesn't want us to go through pain, guilt of divorce. Why he sets up very clear boundaries for marriage here in Gospel; wants to protect marriage; loves our families.
 2. Blesses children. Vs. 13,14,16. We love our children; Jesus, too. Imagine you were parent there that day; Jesus picks up, bounces 4yr old; hugs 4th gr; kisses toddler. Ever forget? What if you're kid on lap; forget? Perhaps single most endearing picture of Jesus in whole Bible, holding kids, smiling, laughing with them. Comes right on heels of divorce section because they teach same thing: Jesus loves families, protects marriages, blesses children.
 3. Provides loving structure to our families, as blessing. Eph 5:22,23a,25; 6:1,4. A lot today balk at scriptural structure for family God outlines here (husband, head, servant leader; wife, servant helper; children obedient to parents; parents as teachers). Secular society hates this setup. In last few years, gotten worse. Dobson tapes (1978 – made me realize how much has deteriorated since then). But what hasn't changed is this – how God structured family and detailed it in Eph 5,6. Reason God gives this scriptural structure is to protect, bless the family, marriage, children. Remember, faith/family meant to go hand/hand (faith in Christ grow in safety of family). That's what Jesus loves. Jesus loves our families.

Jesus Loves His Family

- Also his family (family of God, HCC, group people believe). This is Jesus' family; listen how much loves his family – **Heb 2:9-10**. Jesus suffered death for us – that's how much loves his family! Husbands/wives, for spouse; children; parents – would you die for them? Maybe. Suffer, tortured, crucified. Maybe; maybe not. Easy to say yes from comfort of church pew; another thing when face to face with cross, like Jesus was in GofG – knew exactly what up against! – yet **“by the grace of God [Jesus tasted] death for everyone.”** That's how much Jesus loves his family!
- Notice **vs. 10a** (s&d). **Vs. 11**: Raise hand if sibling. If never annoyed, upset by sibling. Not too many; pretty common sibs get on nerves. Imagine: in grade, high school; with sib; that sib does something really bad (baseball through window, backs up into dad's new car, loses mom's jewelry). Really bad; lot of trouble. But instead of sib getting in trouble, parents blame you; angry at you; punish you; sib gets off scot-free. How feel about sib? Upset? Translate that scenario into reality. You did something really bad; because of sins, lot of trouble. But instead of you getting in trouble, God heavenly Father blamed Jesus; angry at Jesus; punished Jesus; you got off scot-free. How Jesus feel about you? Upset? **Vs. 11b**. Jesus loves his family. You are Jesus' family; his brother, sister. He is your brother. His Father in heaven, your Father in heaven (“Our Father”). And when you were in trouble with Dad, he took punishment for you. He suffered, died for you. Holds no grudge against you for it; in fact, he wanted to. Could've gotten out; didn't. Jesus loves his family. You, all Christians, are Jesus' family.
- Often when our kids grow up, they move away from home – off to college, settle with career – not at home. Might call home, visit home; don't stay home. Right now we are the children of God who live away from home. Know where Dad is; know he loves us; know how to call him; like to visit him. But right now not home. But someday we'll go back home, back where we belong, where Dad is, Brother is, fam is. Lot of fam moved back home already; waiting for us there. Jesus: **“In my [our] Father's house are many rooms” (Jn 14:2)**. Getting your room all ready; can't wait to see you. **Vs. 11b**.
- Jesus loves the family: our fams, and his fam. May Lord JC bless all our fams with love for God and love for one another, and with deep understanding of what it means to be members of Jesus' family.

Mark 10:2-16

² Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³ “What did Moses command you?” he replied. ⁴ They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.” ⁵ “It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied. ⁶ “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ⁷ ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, ⁸ and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

¹⁰ When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. ¹¹ He answered, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. ¹² And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Ephesians 5 & 6

^{5:22} Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. ^{6:1} Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ⁴ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Hebrews 2:9-11

⁹ We do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.