

Family Matters

Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV)

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; **it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.**" Then John consented. ¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

I. The Designer's Plan

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:18, 21-24 (NIV)

¹⁸ The LORD God said, "**It is not good for the man to be alone.** I will make a helper suitable for him." . . . ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." ²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

A. Marriage a characteristic of this age

Matthew 22:30 (NASB)

³⁰ "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

B. Family, Clan and Tribe

Judges 6:14-15 (NIV)

¹⁴ The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" ¹⁵ "But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? **My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.**"

II. Family Advantage

A. Strength

Ecclesiastes 4:9-11 (NASB)

⁹ Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. ¹⁰ For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. ¹¹ Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm *alone*?

B. Protection for the vulnerable

Matthew 18:5-7, 10-11 (NIV)

⁵ "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. ⁶ But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. ⁷ "Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come! . . . ¹⁰ "See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

C. Necessary life lessons caught and taught

1. Children are designed to be great imitators

Ephesians 5:1 (NIV)

¹ Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children

2. Parents are life trainers

Psalm 78:5-7 (NIV)

⁵ He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, ⁶ so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. ⁷ Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

3. "Young" is the posture of a learner

Mark 7:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!" ¹⁰ For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.'

III. Family is Essential to the God Story

Noah

Genesis 7:1 (NIV)

¹ The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation.

Abraham

Genesis 12:1-5 (NIV)

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." ⁴ So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

Moses

Exodus 2:1-4 (NIV)

¹ Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, ² and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. ³ But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Jesus

Matthew 1:18-21 (NIV)

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Heavenly Father, forgive us for turning our back on your truth. Forgive us for our selfishness and ungodliness. We rejoice today because you are our father. You watch over our lives and our families. Grant us understanding hearts that we may walk in your ways. Give us boldness to stand in your light. Through our lives may your kingdom come and your will be done on earth. In Jesus' name, amen.