

In part III of this series, I made a statement which in many ways sums up the difference between false beliefs like those taught in popular books and

the truth taught in the Word of God. First, a Saviour must be perfect from the beginning. Second, He must remain in perfection throughout His life; and this is the nature of Jesus which many false teachers and fairy tale writers want to tell us is untrue! False teaching tells us the nature of a Saviour is not important; that they are only guides to help us find the truth. In reality, this means they can be anything from good to very evil. Just so long as they teach us something. However, that is not what the Bible tells us.

Now, we have spent time in this series talking about why the perfection of Jesus is necessary; and we have talked about why, unlike other humans, Jesus had the ability to be perfect from the start. What we are down to now are the arguments about specific actions which Jesus could have taken in His earthly life which some may not yet understand why they would have destroyed that perfection of Jesus.

One such action is the fact Jesus needed to refrain from having physical relationships with women. This is something many of the false stories about Jesus tell us He did not refrain from, and many today do not see why this would be a problem. I've heard people suggest that it's even a good thing because it truly shows us Jesus was human, but that is missing the point. Jesus came to show us how to live, not just enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. (Heb. 11:24-26) Does this mean even a physical relationship between a man and his wife is sin? No, but a physical relationship is about the continuance of this life, and Jesus came to give us the next. This is why Jesus had no problem with the question the religious leaders asked Him, trying to trip Him up. They asked, if a man had a wife and died leaving no children and his brother took her to wife to raise up children but died also, this happening to all seven brothers until one day even the woman died leaving behind no children, whose wife would she be in the resurrection? This was a question they could not

DECODING THE TRUTH

PART V

answer because they were only thinking of this life, but Jesus simply explained there will be no marriage or giving of marriage in the resur-

rection. (Matt. 22:24-33) Marrying and giving in marriage has to do with a focus on this life and its continuance. Jesus, even though He was fully man, did not come to live this life but cut through it to make a way out of the death this life ultimately brings.

Physical relationships are simply that, physical relationships. So, one of the first things you must understand about sex is that it's a joining. Genesis 2:24 tells us that the two become one flesh. As we've already talked about, Jesus had to be a newly created human so He would not simply be trapped in the same cycle we are trapped in. If Jesus had simply been born of the seed of Adam, He would have no more power over death than the rest of us. (I Cor. 15:42-49) Jesus did not come so we could have more of this life. Jesus came so we could have life eternal which is more abundant than this life. (John 10:10) Jesus clearly told us, if we seek this life we will lose it; and if we lose this life following Him, we will find life. (Matt. 16:25) That is what Jesus came to do: make a path we could follow, not just show us a path to follow. (John 13:36) To create this path Jesus had to live it. Which meant, He had to refrain from the activities of the flesh which are about the continuance of this life and focus on making a way in which we can afford to let it end. Joining Himself to another human would have defeated this goal in a number of ways.

The most basic way should be obvious. If Jesus became one flesh by having a relationship with a woman, His flesh would no longer be sinless! "What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh." I Corinthians 6:16 In Jesus' case it was not just about being joined to a harlot, but any woman no matter how good she may have been. Again, if we could be perfect, we would not need a Saviour. No woman from the seed of Adam could be righteous enough to not destroy the perfection of Jesus by

being joined to Him!

The next item is the words spoken by Paul in I Corinthians 7:32-33, "But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife." Jesus could never have yielded His will to The Father in the way He needed to if He had taken on worldly concerns such as marriage. (Luke 14:26) Marriage is a commitment to care for your wife and the family which may result from your union. In many ways, your life is no longer your own but your family's. Jesus could not afford to make this kind of commitment to any one person or persons. Jesus came to be The Saviour of all mankind. There are thousands of ways in which Jesus would have never been able to accomplish His Father's will if He had been married, but there is one big reason we should see. Jesus did not go to the cross for legitimate crimes! More than once, Pilot said, "I find no fault in this man."; and Pilot desired to let Jesus go. (Luke 23, John 18-19) However, it was for this cause that Jesus had been born. (John 18:37) So, Jesus went willingly to the cross and gave His life for us. (Isa. 53:6-7) If He had been married, it would not have been His choice to give His life! (I Cor. 7:3-5)

Next, there is the simple fact that the Bible gives no evidence Jesus was married. Now, some have suggested the books which contain this information were simply left out of the Bible; but if Jesus had been married, it's impossible to believe there were, at the very least, four Gospels to include in the Bible which would take the time to mention Jesus' mother but make no mention of His wife! Others have suggested that Jesus' marriage was secret, but this would have been a sin. I Thessalonians 5:22 tells us to abstain from all appearance of evil. It would have been an egregious appearance of evil for Jesus to have had a wife without making it public knowledge. Again, physical relationships are a joining. Whether we like it or not, we are making a commitment with the act. If we are going to get it right, we have an obligation to stand before God and man to make a public proclamation we understand and knowingly accept the commitment, we are not just being fools. Jesus certainly would have done this.

He came to show us how to live righteously in all things; and in His instructions He even told us, if a man looks at a woman to lust after her, he has already committed adultery in his heart. (Matt. 5:27-28) A physical relationship is private. The accepting of the responsibility which automatically comes with it is not!

That brings us to another point, and that is children. One of the biggest fairy tales we hear is the idea Jesus, through a relationship with a woman, left children on the earth. This has all the earmarks of a knight's tale! What greater lore could there be than the idea that certain people are actually descendents of Christ? What utter fleshliness and foolishness! Jesus was not building a worldly kingdom through starting a specific line of corruptible humans. Jesus was here to build a kingdom from those who, throughout time, have made the choice that God is what they want, not this world and what it can offer. We can do everything right, but there is no way we can make our children be right. In the end, all children are individuals who will make their choices and stand before God someday as individuals for those choices. If Jesus had children, they would be no different. There would be no point in Jesus leaving behind biological children in this world. God created Adam and Eve with His hands. They were certainly the children of God, but look what they did. We are everyone children of God. We were all created in the image of God. (Gen. 1:26-28) There would be nothing extra special about Jesus' children. They, like the rest of us, would all be freewilled beings who could choose sin!

Two wrongs don't make a right, and mixing good with evil does not make something good. This is what was being said in Genesis chapter 6. Before the flood, we're told the people who served God were coming in to those who did not serve God and having children by them. The culture which lived for God was being intermingled with the culture which did not serve God. At best, this resulted in lukewarmness which God will spew out of His mouth. (Rev. 3:15-16) After the flood, man attempted to build one unified culture at the Tower of Babel which would keep there from ever being a Godly culture again. (Gen. 11:1-9, Matt. 6:24) God stopped this attempt and later established a nation of people

who were given specific instructions on how to be a Godly culture. All this has served as constant examples of how hard it is to maintain righteousness among so much unrighteousness!

Jesus did not come to establish yet another culture or group which would struggle day by day to maintain. Jesus came to fulfill the promise God had already established would come through Israel. What Jesus was and still is looking for are those who, through their free will, have chosen the path of God instead of the world. Jesus made this clear when they came to Him one day as He was teaching and told Him His mother and brethren were looking for Him. Jesus said, "My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it." Luke 8:21 No matter what nation or culture they come from, these are the ones who will rule and reign with Christ. At the resurrection, the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up to meet The Lord in the air. This will provide us with incorruptible bodies. (I Cor. 15:50-57, I Thes. 4:15-18) It will be those who have trusted in Jesus which will receive these incorruptible bodies and rule with Christ, not an earthly bloodline continually corrupted by sinful man.

Fleshly men have trouble understanding this because they do not truly believe Jesus will return! You see, Gnostics believe there is no reason for a Messiah to return. Since they only believe in guides, not a true Saviour, there is only the need for these guides to exist down through the ages. The idea there is a code of understanding which can be sought out by those who are brave and strong is vastly different from a God who offers salvation to all those who desire righteousness. However, these ideas show us why Jesus having a child is silly to the true believer but almost necessary to the Gnostic.

We just don't get the idea that God is real and He has not left us. We do not need a multitude of guides to lead us to some hidden truth. We need a Saviour who can provide a way for death not to be the end of our relationship with God. Those who truly know God will understand this, and those who do not want God will continue to look to man for excuses. This is why Gnostics look for guides, and even Catholics believe that through the office of Pope there is a

succession to the authority of Christ left on this earth. They believe the ways of God must be upheld by man to be real or to continue because they do not truly believe in a living God!

The truth is, Jesus died, but He rose again. He does not need children or bishops to continue His authority, and it does not matter how many or how few believe - the truth is the truth. This is what the Sadducees had to confront in Acts chapter 5. The disciples were teaching and doing miracles in the name of Jesus, and the religious rulership wanted them to stop. One idea was to just imprison these men, but the angel of The Lord had released them. Another idea was to just kill them, but they feared the people who had already seen their miracles. Then one of them, with a little bit of wisdom, reminded the council that in times past, false teachers had arose after which many people followed. However, after their death their followers eventually disbursed, and the whole matter went away on its own. Thus, the council concluded the smart thing was to simply wait and see if this matter with Jesus would do the same. That was a good decision. However, it did not accomplish what the council was hoping for because Jesus is not dead and the disciples were not false prophets. Their message survived and grew!

The devil understands the truth cannot be destroyed. (James 2:19) So, since the beginning of man's existence, instead of working on destroying the truth, he has been trying to distort it. Many have been led astray by these distortions, but those who simply know God will be strong and do exploits. (Dan. 11) What is important in our lives is we know the truth, not because someone told us that was the truth but because in our spirit we know we have found another building block of truth which we have been looking for. With it, we will grow in the grace and knowledge of The Lord Jesus Christ and know Him for who He really is, not just for what some book says!

Until next time, may The God of grace and mercy guide you into all truth as you study His Word!

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