



# Jesus' Family

# Jesus' Family

- In a gospel about faith in Jesus, John speaks often of doubters
  - Thomas was not the only doubter in the book
    - John 20:24-31
  - Those in His own nation
    - John 1:11 - “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.”
  - Those among His disciples
    - John 6:66 - “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.”

# Jesus' Family

- John 7:5 - "For even His brothers did not believe in Him."
- Mark 3:21 - "But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, He is out of His mind."
- Psalm 69:8 - "I have become a stranger to my brothers, And an alien to my mother's children"
- They eventually believed in Jesus
  - Acts 1:14 - "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."

# Jesus' Family

- Why did Jesus' brothers not believe in Him from the beginning?
  - They had been with Him from the beginning, heard some of His teaching, and witnessed a number of the miracles
- We will consider the following:
  - Their lives
  - Their unbelief
  - Their faith

# Biographies

- Four brothers and sisters
  - Matt. 13:55-56 - “Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? 56 And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?”
- James, Joseph, Simon, and Jude and more than one sister
  - Believed to be born in this order: Jesus, James, Joseph, Simon, Mary, Salome, Jude

# Biographies

- Followers of the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox traditions, as well as Anglicans and Lutherans, subscribe to the doctrine of the perpetual virginity of Mary and reject the claim that Jesus had blood siblings.
- They maintain that these brothers and sisters were closely associated with the family of Jesus as either cousins or children of Joseph from a previous marriage.

# Biographies

- Who were they really?
  - John 2:12 - “After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.”
  - Mark 3:20-21, 30-31 - “Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. 21 But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, He is out of His mind... 30 they said, He has an unclean spirit. 31 Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him.”

# James

- James (Jacob - Iakobos) is believed to be the oldest of the brothers, and has the name of Joseph's father.
- Died in AD 62 (according to Josephus and Jerome) or AD 69 (Clement of Alexandria, and Eusebius of Caesarea), by the order of high priest Hanan ben Ananias, he was stoned to death

# James

- Sometimes identified as James, son of Alphaeus (an ancestor) and James the Less (the shorter).
- Author of the Epistle of James, a letter to the Diaspora, Jews dispersed all over the world

# James

- Acts 12:17 - “But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren.”
- Acts 15:13 - “And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, listen to me”
- Acts 21:17-19 - “And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. 18 On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. 19 When he had greeted them, he told in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.”

# James

- 1Cor. 9:5 - “Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?”
- 1Cor. 15:7 - “After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.”

# James

- Gal. 1:19 - “But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.”
- Gal. 2:12 - “for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.”
- James 1:1 - “James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.”

# Joses

- Joses is a short Greek form of Joseph.
  - He is a brother of Jesus, mentioned seldom in the New Testament
  - Matt. 13:55
  - Matt. 27:56 - “among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.”
  - Mark 6:3 - “Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us? And they were offended at Him.”

# Joses

- History records him as one of the elders at Jerusalem (Epiphanius and Eusebius), but not in the New Testament
- Some scholars believe he is the Joseph Barsabas Justus of Acts 1:23 who was considered a candidate to take Judas' place; it is not possible to be certain

# Simon

- He is numbered among the brothers of Jesus and is also called Simon of Jerusalem

# Jude

- Also called Judas, Judah, Thaddaeus or Lebbaeus was one of the four brothers of Jesus
- He is the author of the Epistle of Jude
  - Note that his family placed emphasis on the more important of their relationship to Jesus, servants rather than brothers
  - Jude 1 - “Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ”

# Jude

- Eusebius records that Jude had two grandsons that were tried and released with the contempt of Domitian, and who later lived well into the reign of Trajan (*Eusebius of Caesarea, Historia Ecclesiae, 3:20*)

# Sisters

- One of whom may have been named Salome
  - Mark 15:40, 16:1 - Some scholars believe this may have been a sister; cannot be proven; not important

# Why They Did Not Believe In The Beginning

- Familiarity

- Matt. 13:54 - “And when He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?”
- John 4:44 - “For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.”

# Why They Did Not Believe In The Beginning

- Envy

- Matt. 12:47-49 - “Then one said to Him, Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You. 48 But He answered and said to the one who told Him, Who is My mother and who are My brothers? 49 And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, Here are My mother and My brothers!”

# Why They Did Not Believe In The Beginning

- Preconceptions

- John 6:14-15 - “Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world. 15 Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.”
- John 7:3-5 - “His brothers therefore said to Him, Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world. 5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.”

# Why They Did Not Believe In The Beginning

- Familiarity can blind us to the truth.
  - Truth can be communicated by imperfect messengers
  - Phil. 1:15-18

# Why They Did Not Believe In The Beginning

- Envy can get in the way of truth
  - Jealous that we might be wrong and others right
  - Admitting others are right somehow makes them better than us
  - Craving the center of attention or the power of leadership

# Why They Did Not Believe In The Beginning

- Preconceived expectations obstruct a clear view of the truth
  - Refusing to reexamine cherished beliefs
  - Rejecting a message simply because we have never heard it before.
- Truth requires a willingness to hear, and has nothing to fear from investigation
  - Acts 17:11

# How They Came To Believe

- Jesus' brothers eventually became disciples. They were with the apostles after the Ascension
  - Acts 1:12-14 - “Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. 13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

# How They Came To Believe

- James became a key figure in the church at Jerusalem
  - Acts 12:17, 15:13, 21:18; Gal. 2:9
- James and Judas wrote epistles
  - James 1:1; Jude 1
- According to history, James was martyred for the faith

# How They Came To Believe

- What changed?
- The resurrection of Jesus from the dead!

# How They Came To Believe

- Jesus appeared to James
  - 1Cor. 15:7
- And to Jude
  - John 20:19 - “Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, Peace be with you.”
- And to others
  - 1Cor. 15:6 - “After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.”

# How They Came To Believe

- Miracles can be faked; resurrection cannot
  - Acts 1:3 - “to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”
  - Acts 10:39-41 - “And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. 40 Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.”

# How They Came To Believe

- They never went back on their testimony; their faith never wavered.
- Remember them, not for being the brothers of Jesus, but for their great faith that grew out of great unbelief.
- The conversion of His brothers who first doubted should strengthen our faith in Jesus

# How They Came To Believe

- “If the disciples were totally disappointed and on the verge of desperate flight because of the very real reason of the crucifixion, it took another very real reason in order to transform them from a band of disheartened and dejected Jews into the most self-confident missionaries in world history.” *(Pinchas Lapide, former Chairman of the Applied Linguistics Department at Israel's Bar-Ilan University; TIME, 5/7/79)*

# How They Came To Believe

- Jude 20-21 - “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”