

The Gospel According to Matthew

The Trouble With Family
November 21, 2021

Matthew 13v54-58

54 He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? 55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? Are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?" 57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor except in their own country and in their own house." 58 And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

What about family?

Family of Origin

Why did Jesus' hometown take offense?

1. Authority
2. Not professionally qualified
3. Familiarity breeds contempt - Does it really?

How does Jesus respond?

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

_ Isaiah 53v3

He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

_ John 1v11

What about Jesus' family?

Families are often less tolerant of our own members than people on the outside.

What if our assumptions about God, who God is, or how God shows up, prevent us from seeing him at work in our everyday lives?

Our familiarity with Jesus can make it impossible for us to recognize him when he comes to us thirsty, a stranger, naked, or a prisoner.

_ Stanley Hauerwas

When we discuss the problems confronting the country, we don't talk about family enough. It feels too judgmental. Too uncomfortable. Maybe even too religious. Americans are hungering to live in extended and forged families, in ways that are new and ancient at the same time. This is a significant opportunity, a chance to thicken and broaden family relationships, a chance to allow more adults and children to live and grow under the loving gaze of a dozen pairs of eyes, and be caught, when they fall, by a dozen pairs of arms. For decades, we have been eating at small and smaller tables, with fewer and fewer kin. It's time to find ways to bring back the big tables.

_David Brooks

My sibling from the same canoe.

_ Chuukese people of Micronesia

Forged Families

Resources: *Matthew For Everyone* by N. T. Wright, *The Nuclear Family Was A Mistake* by David Brooks

Looking to Connect?: One of the Narrate staff would love to connect over lunch or coffee. To schedule a time please email info@narratechurch.org and we will get back to you within the week.

Therapist or Spiritual Director?: Email info@narratechurch.org and we will get you the contact of the therapists and directors we recommend.