

Recapturing Christmas

Family

December 11, 2016 / Jeff Gunn

¹⁹ Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. ²⁰ Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you."

²¹ He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice." **Luke 8:19-21, NIV**

¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. **Hebrews 2:17, NIV**

Because Jesus was made _____ like us in every way, he understands the _____ of having a family.

¹ Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. ² When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? ³ Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. **Mark 6:1-3, NIV**

Jesus had a family whom he _____.

²¹ When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." **Mark 3:21, NIV**

⁵ For even his own brothers did not believe in him. **John 7:5, NIV**

Jesus had a family who didn't _____ him.

³⁷ "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. **Matthew 10:37-39, NIV**

Jesus _____ me more than life itself. Now Jesus seeks my _____ above all else, even family. This will mean...

- owning my _____ (even when it's painful).
- risking the life I _____ (so that I can possess a life that is far _____).

⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God... ⁸ Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. **1 Timothy 5:4, 8, NIV**

This doesn't mean Jesus wants me to _____ my family or be _____ to their needs.

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship... ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child. **Galatians 4:4-5, 7a, NIV**

But it does mean that to be _____ into Jesus' family — and _____ in it — is of first importance.

MEMORY VERSE

²¹ He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice." **Luke 8:21, NIV**

My next step: I will love my physical family as a precious gift from God, and I will love my brother Jesus even more.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.