



By David Sproule

Jesus Is the Mighty God

It is amazing how some people have tried to depict Jesus over the years to be a weak, ineffectual man who could not save His own life. Endless efforts have been made to mischaracterize Jesus, in order to prevent people from truly getting to know Him and follow Him.

The prophet Isaiah got a glimpse of Jesus as the promised Messiah, and he was overwhelmed with what he saw. The coming Messiah would reign as King "upon the throne of David and over His kingdom" (Isa. 9:7). We saw in last week's article that Jesus is the "Wonderful Counselor" (9:6). Isaiah also described Jesus as the "Mighty God."

The Hebrew word for "mighty" carries the idea of being a "mighty warrior" as a "strong, valiant man," and interestingly is often defined as "hero" or "champion" (cf. 1 Sam. 17:51). When Isaiah saw Jesus, he saw deity, for Jesus is God (John 1:1-2), possessing "all the fullness of Deity" (Col. 2:9). As God, He is the "Heroic God," the one possessing all power and ready to engage on behalf of His people. Let us think about the "might" of Jesus Christ.

As the Mighty God, Jesus did many "mighty works" while He walked this earth. Both believers and unbelievers recognized this. Nicodemus, who became a faithful disciple,

exclaimed, "No one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him" (John 3:2). Even His enemies "were astonished" at His "mighty works" (Matt. 13:54). Peter could tell the crowd on Pentecost that "you yourselves also know" of the great might demonstrated by Jesus (Acts 2:22).

As the Mighty God, Jesus overcame sin and the world. Hours before His death, He told His disciples, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). He did that by living a sinless life (1 Pet. 2:22; Heb. 4:15), so that He Himself could (and did) "put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Heb. 9:26).

The "Heroic God" ready to engage on behalf of His people

As the Mighty God, Jesus conquered death. Paul told Timothy that Christ had "abolished death" (2 Tim. 1:10), for having been raised from the dead (1 Cor. 15:20-26), He is "alive forevermore" and has "the keys of Hades and of Death" (Rev. 1:18).

As the Mighty God, Jesus triumphed over Satan. He came "that He might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8), and "through [His] death," He did "destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14).

Jesus, the Mighty God, has done so much in demonstrating Himself to be our Heroic God, and even today, He is still "upholding all things by the word of His power" (Heb. 1:3). Best of all, He has and continues to use His might for the good of His people (Rom. 8:31; Heb. 13:6).

Questions & Replies by John T. Polk II, www.johntpolkll.com

QUESTION: "Why is it so hard to have faith today?"

ANSWER: Faith takes effort, and many don't "strive."

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able." **Luke 13:24**

1. Struggle To Believe: After Jesus had died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day, He appeared to the Apostles, "When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted" (**Matthew 28:17**). "Doubted" simply means their mind was divided on how far to go with belief. To them, Jesus then said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (**Matthew 28:18-20**). Today, people believe Jesus is the Christ, but are not sure about being baptized. Listen to the Lord who loves you and was raised from the dead. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (**Mark 16:16**).

2. Difficulties For Christians: Before becoming a disciple of the Lord, Paul said, "I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme" (**Acts 26:11**). He had tried to make them speak against Jesus. As a Christian, Paul wrote, "I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed" (**1 Corinthians 12:3**). No one following the Holy Spirit's inspired Scriptures will contradict Jesus Christ. By the Holy Spirit, who can say: Jesus did not build His church (**Matthew 16:18**)? Purchase His church with His blood (**Acts 20:28**)? give sinners "redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (**Ephesians 1:7**)? Reject baptism to "wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (**Acts 22:16**)? "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body" (**1 Corinthians 12:13**).

3. Jesus' Family: A woman's voice above the crowd "said to Him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!' But He said, 'More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!'" (**Luke 11:27-28**). Jesus was born of Mary, the only virgin mother, ever! And, yet, His spiritual family means more to Him than she did! Before this incident, some had "said, 'Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You.' But He answered and said to them, 'My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it'" (**Luke 8:20-21**). His spiritual family is "the house of God, which is the church of the living God" (**1 Timothy 3:15**), composed of all who "call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord" (**1 Corinthians 1:2**). Have you been taught to hate His family? ---jtpII

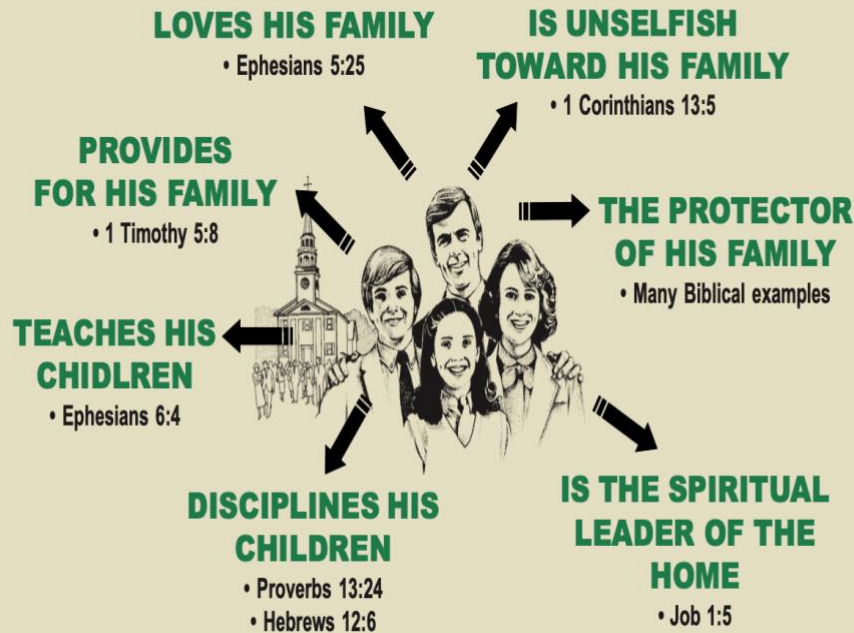
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The Biblical Husband & Father . . .

Genesis 3:16 • Ephesians 5:23

- A father is a father who leads
- A father is a leader who is led
- A father is a leader by divine appointment
- A breakdown in leadership can lead to a breakdown in "follow-ship."



Barnes' Bible Charts

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

~"There is no such thing as an insignificant enemy." - French Proverb

~"Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

-Chinese Proverb

~ Tolerance will reach such a level that intelligent people will be banned from thinking so as not to offend the imbeciles.

- Fyodor Dostoevsky

~ An atheist cannot find God for the same reason that a thief cannot find a policeman.

The Example of Children

In Matthew 19:13, children are brought to Jesus to be blessed by Him, but the disciples rebuked the people for bringing them. Possibly they thought that this was a waste of Jesus' precious time, but in the very next verse Jesus responds, "*Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven*" (v.14). Jesus used children as a model of what the child of God is to be like. Children have many wonderful characteristics that should be imitated by all.

Maybe using the word "children" as an acronym can help us to be more "child-like" in our Christianity:

Christ-like
Humble
Innocent
Loving
Devoted
Real
Enthusiastic
Nice

Emulating the positive traits of children causes us to achieve greatness in the kingdom of God. In an earlier instance, the disciples of Jesus were arguing which of them would be greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:1). It is then that Jesus called a child and set him in the midst of them and said, "*Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven*" (v.3-4).

I hope the disciples of Jesus got the point. And I hope all of us today get the point, as well. Rather than being childish, let us be more child-like in Christ!

- Edd Sterchi