



WHAT WAS JESUS' FAMILY LIKE?

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Well, Merry Christmas everybody. Thank you so much for joining us. If you are new, my name's Pastor Mark. I'm honored to welcome you to our church family and we have been in a sermon series called Leaving Cleve. We're dealing with issues of marriage and family, so we're gonna continue that sermon series today, but with a unique special twist. Not only are we celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, but also we're gonna look at his family and how God entered into human history by joining a family. So that'll be our theme in our short sermon. And by the way, if you're new, I've got a special once a year, Christmas present. It's a short sermon. And so, and if at the end you think that seemed like a normal sermon, nah, come back. We've got a long one for you starting next week. But nonetheless, uh, before we jump into the theme of family and look at Jesus family, I thought it'd be fun to introduce you to my family. So my wife, grace and I, we met at 17, married at 21. Uh, fast forward we've got five kids, three boys, two girls, the oldest three are married. We've got two grandsons, which is amazing, and also a daughter in college and a son in high school. So on behalf of our family, Merry Christmas to you and your family and welcome to our church family. And while we're at it, we're here gathered at Trinity Church, and this really is a unique concept of God. Some religions say there's one God, some say there are many Gods. Only Christianity says there is one God, three persons, father, son, and Spirit who live together in love and unity as one God. And it can be hard to understand, well, how can three persons be so loving and intimate and related that they're like one? Well, that's like a family. The doctrine of the Trinity is that God is like a family. And so there are three persons and they love one another, and they do everything together in perfect unity. And that language of Father and Son used for God. It gives us this imagery that God's heart is like a family and God functions like a family. And when it comes to the Bible, the Bible uses the word family around 700 times. On roughly 2000 occasions, it'll use the word house or household. We're referring to a family that dwells together under a roof. And as we've been looking at family and we've been looking at God's word for his divine design for marriage and family, we've established that a family is an emotional unit of multiple generations. And so what makes us a family is time together, sharing emotions. This is why we get together for things like the holidays to be together, to build our relationships and to share memories. That being said, as we've looked at in the sermon series, two things are really significant to remember about family. Number one, God loves family. God's all about family. God created us for marriage and family. God is a family. God's heart is to make healthy, loving, joyful families. In addition, there is Satan, the enemy of God and his people, and he hates families. And what this means is he constantly attacks marriages and families. The storyline of the Bible is everything started with our first father, one man, Adam. But Satan didn't even show up until he was married, and then again when he had children, because God makes family. Satan breaks family. And what this means practically as well, if you're trying to have a loving, joyful, unified church family or individual family, there is going to be something called spiritual warfare. Some opposition toward that. And the storyline of the Bible is that God made us to be part of his family. He didn't need us, but he chose to love us. And then what we did as a human race, we sinned against God. We rebelled. It's like a child running away from home and choosing to be an orphan when they have a loving father and family, knowing that we were in danger. God devised a plan that he would send his son, the Son of God or Big Brother, the Lord Jesus Christ, into human history on a rescue mission to adopt us into his family. God sent forth a series of prophets. These are men filled with the Holy Spirit who predict the future and tell us what is going to happen. One is in Isaiah and in Isaiah seven fourteen, seven hundred years before Jesus was born, here's what we read. The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin young, unmarried woman shall conceive and bear a son, not

just a child, but a male child and shall call his name Emmanuel, which means God with us. And so the promise was given that God was coming into a family so that we could be rejoined into God's family. And what you need to know is that this is different than what other religions teach. Many religions perhaps most would teach. There is God and us. God is holy, we are unholy. God is in heaven, we are on earth. And some sense of sin has separated us from God. And then the question is, well, how do we close that gap? How do we reconcile that relationship? Every religion except for Christianity, says that we go up to God through our good works, our religious performance, or maybe we die and reincarnate and pay off our karmic debts so that we can ascend to God. Only Christianity teaches that we don't go up to God, but God comes down to us. And ultimately with the coming of Jesus Christ, that is God becoming a man, to be the bridge between heaven and earth, between men and women and our creator God. And so what we see ultimately in this is that we don't need to do anything to go up to God. We need to receive Jesus Christ who has come down for us. Amen. Amen. And that's the heart of our Christian faith. That being said, Jesus is both the son of God and he becomes the Son of Mary as fully God, fully man. He reconciles men to God. The Bible teachers will call this the incarnation. And in simply means with or plus, incarnate means flesh. So Jesus is God, become a man. He is eternally existing, entering into human history, the Creator entering into his creation. And it is this significant, supernatural, miraculous event that is forever altered history. And Jesus comes from God's family to reconnect us to God's family. This is denoted when Jesus is little and he is first worship by three wise men. These three wise men come from the east, perhaps Babylon, where Daniel had gone many generations prior and told them of Jesus coming. They bring Jesus, the wise men do three gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. That first gift, gold is what you would bring for a king. A gold denotes kingship. And Jesus is king of kings. And his entrance is the kingdom of God entering into human history. The second gift is frankincense, which was used by priests in the presence of God for the praise and worship of God. So you would go into the temple, the holy of Holies, you would light incense. Frankincense is a form of incense, and then you would worship God. And it is to show us that Jesus is king and he's to be worshiped. He is to be worshiped. The third gift for young Jesus is really unusual. That gift is in fact myrrh. This was used to prepare a body for burial after it died. An incredibly strange gift to give a small child, but it shows why Jesus came to die as a sacrifice for our sins. And Jesus came to live the life we have not lived to die, the death we should die to conquer death and open heaven to give us the gift, the gift of salvation that we cannot earn. And when Jesus died, it tells us in John 19:38 that they prepared his dead body for burial with myrrh. All of this was fulfilled well from the promise of this prophecy in Isaiah, there was a 700 year period of waiting and anticipating, where is this family to whom the son of God will come to reconcile the human family to the divine family? And then we pick up the story in Luke's gospel, the angel Gabriel comes with a news of Jesus coming. Behold, he says to this young woman, Mary, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son. You shall call his name Jesus, which means God is my savior. He will be great and be called the son of the most high. Jesus is not just the son of Mary, he is also the son of God. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father, David, king of kings. He'll reign over the house of Jacob forever and of his kingdom. There will be no end. And Mary said to the angel, how will this be since I am a virgin? She doesn't yet understand that she is the chosen one to fulfill the promise to Isaiah. And the angel answered her, it's going to be a miracle. The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the most high will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy. That means he alone is without sin and perfect the son of God. And so here, Jesus is entering into human history, but he's entering into a family and he's

starting not just as a man, but as a baby in the womb of his mother. And I want you to know a little bit about his mother and father, Joseph and Mary. They were poor, not rich. Uh, they were rural, not urban. They were powerless, not powerful. They were unknown, not famous. Uh, furthermore, they were likely teenagers. Think middle school, high school kid. And you're probably somewhere near reality. And they had likely grew up together in this small town and they were betrothed or engaged to be married. Their wedding day was on the calendar. Their guest list was chosen. She had picked her dress and the big day was arriving. And then suddenly their plans were forever altered by this news that she though she was a virgin, was going to be with child. This could have put her in great anxiety because Joseph would likely assume that she had been unfaithful to him. And as a result, she could end up a a, a rejected single mother poor in a small religious town raising a child by herself. There is a potential crisis looming, but God is faithful. And he shows up through that same angel and he speaks to Joseph and he tells him she loves the Lord. She's a good woman. You need to marry her. And she is going to be fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah. And so what happens is this young couple, they obey God. And Joseph is is a man of few words. He says Little, but he does much. He's the strong silent type. Some of your dads were like that. Two men say too much and do too little. Joseph had few words, but he had many obedient actions to the Lord, he marries Mary and then he adopts Jesus. And he becomes a, a great example of a good man marrying a single mother and adopting their child. And I always say this to the, to the men who are looking for a, a good family don't overlook the single mothers. Uh, Joseph married a single mother. His son was named Jesus. He did pretty well. And uh, and and if you marry a single woman that loves the Lord and adopts that child, you could be having the same kind of grace upon your life and marriage and family. In addition, just to know a little bit about this family, Jesus was born and he grew up in a small town called Nazareth. And I've been there some years ago. It's a very small rural town. Poor people in peasants. Uh, there was one well there. And that meant that the population could only grow to be about perhaps a hundred people. It could only sustain that many citizens. Jesus would've made that walk daily perhaps with his mother to fetch water and to carry it home. To this day that well still flows. It's called Mary's. Well, in addition, the archeologists have excavated the homes from the days of Jesus. And they were about the size of a parking stall where you and I would park a vehicle. And that would've included not only where they live their children, but also where they cook their meals and where they house their livestock. This is a very poor young couple, but God has chosen them to bring God into human history. The God man, Jesus Christ. In addition to having a mother and father, Jesus also had extended family. We pick up the story in Luke chapter one. It speaks of John the Baptizer, his cousin. It says that John will be great before the Lord and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he that is John will go before him. That is Jesus in the spirit and power of Elijah. That is the prophetic power of God, the Holy Spirit. In those days, Maryrose went with haste into the hill country to a town in Judah and she entered the house of Zacharia and greeted Elizabeth. These are relatives like an aunt and an uncle. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. She's prophesying over the younger Mary. And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord, even though Jesus is a preborn baby in his mother's womb, she rightly acknowledges him as her Lord should come to me. For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby, you'll notice it is a baby in my womb bleep for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord. And then it concludes with John the Baptizers Father. It says

Zacharia was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied over his son at his birth. Jesus is God, become a man. He has a mother and father and he has extended family. Here we meet Zacharia and Elizabeth. Uh, they were poor as well. They lived in a small rural town and they had a small ministry, kind of like pastors of a small rural church. They will call priests. Zachariah would've taught the Bible, led worship and been the pastor of a small church. This couple was faithful to the Lord, but they were barren. They always wanted to have a child. But that prayer was never answered. And so one day God answered their prayer after many years of waiting and he said, you're going to give birth to a son. You will name him John. He will be like the prophet Elijah. He will come preaching and preparing people for the coming of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. Hearing this, uh, Mary who was pregnant with Jesus hears that Elizabeth is pregnant with John. Now you've got the old covenant and the new covenant. You've got the promise and the fulfillment. You got the one who is preparing the way and then you have the coming of the Lord. Mary is so excited she has to go see Elizabeth and share in their joy. So she makes the long journey. And what it says is when they come together, something amazing happens. First, it says that, uh, that Elizabeth prophesies over Mary and says, you, you are carrying my Lord and she is filled with the Holy Spirit. And then when the baby boys come together in their mother's womb, uh, it says that John has a name, he has a calling. He's going to be a prophet. He has a ministry to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. And when he comes into the presence of Jesus, even though both baby boys are in the womb of their mothers, John is so spiritually alert and aware that he acknowledges the presence of Jesus Christ and he leaps in worship of Jesus in utero. If you're a pregnant woman here and you're like, my baby is kicking, your baby might be worshipping. I'm just telling you, you may have a little charismatic kid ready to enter the world and make a difference. And I just want you to see that a child can be known by God from the womb, they can be named by God from the womb. They can have a destiny and a calling and a ministry and they can worship God and be filled with the Holy Spirit from their mother's womb. Well, John the Baptizer grows up and his ministry is short, but his legacy is significant. He preaches and baptizes for roughly six months. Jesus comes to him on one faithful day as they're grown men and he baptizes Jesus. And then he says He must increase and I must decrease. John was a man of humility, which is the secret to his greatness. And as a result, you may not know this, Jesus first followers started as followers of John and then John handed his ministry and his followers to Jesus. John went on to have a lot of conflict with the government and eventually he was beheaded. We see this theme often in the Bible that there is conflict between God and government. It's for this reason, my friend, God has highest authority and government wants highest authority. There you go. And so what government wants to do is remove God and replace God with government. Nonetheless, Jesus says sometime later in Luke chapter seven twenty eight, that of every man born of a woman, the greatest man in the history of the world is his cousin, John the Baptizer. He honors him for his courage. The point is this, he only lived six months, but he lived every moment of those six months in devotion and service to Jesus Christ. And I want you to see this amazing family Zacharia. The father was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, uh, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied John the Baptizer was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb. In addition to having mother, father, aunt, uncle, and cousin Jesus also had siblings. How many of you, if you came into human history and you were God, you would just skip the family part, especially the sibling part. And if you think about it for a moment, it may, some of you might think to yourself, I wish that my brother was Jesus. I I'm not so sure. Right? You're fighting. Mary comes in and just spansk you and doesn't even ask what happened. You mom, you didn't even ask. Well, obviously it's your

fault. And it would be, and it would be difficult by the way to, I'm a parent, I have five kids, but parenting Jesus would be hard, right? You're frustrated, you're like, Jesus, I'm very upset. He's like, I forgive you. Like yo, so, so God comes into human history and he has a family and siblings and a mom and a dad. Some of you may not know this, but Jesus had sisters. I'll show you, it says this in Matthew 1356. When he is a grown man, Jesus is preaching. And then they come and they say, and are not all his sisters with us? Where did this man get these things? So he is got sisters. In addition, he's got brothers. We read this as well in Galatians one 19, James is the Lord's brother. That's his half brother. And then in addition, Jude chapter one verse one, Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James. So we know from scripture that Jesus had at least six half siblings, brothers and sisters. That being said, Jesus' family initially rejected him. Jesus said two things that are without precedent or peer in the history of the world. Number one, he said, I am without sin. Number two, I am God. There is no founder of any major world religion who has made those claims. What happened is then the political and religious leaders conspired against Christ to crucify him. Jesus' family thought he had mental health issues. There's a scene in his life when he is preaching and teaching, saying, I'm God and I'm without sin, and I came down from heaven and you're gonna kill me. And three days later, I'll rise from the dead. And his family came to bring him home. You need some help. What we see then is after Jesus dies and his mother was there, and after Jesus rises and his brother see him risen from the dead, they start worshiping Jesus Christ as God and Savior. The girls started worshiping their brother. The boys started worshiping their brother, and the mother started worshiping her son. These were devout Jewish people. This is a great case that Jesus did in fact rise from death because it would take something as significant as a resurrection to believe that Jesus Christ is God come down from heaven. That being said, his entire family then went into ministry and were part of the early church. His two brothers became pastors. James and Jude write two books of the Bible bearing their name. They kept telling his brothers, you need to deny your big brother Jesus as God and Savior or we're going to kill you. This led to James, uh, brother of Jesus being murdered and thrown off a high place for refusing to denounce Christ. The historians report, and I read James the half brother of Jesus was executed. He was thrown off the temple and still alive, was stoned to death, and he didn't deny Christ. Instead, he quoted Christ. And what he said was, father forgive them. And then ultimately there was a leadership vacuum because now there were two brothers leading after Jesus returned to heaven following his resurrection. And what it says is that Simon, Jesus' other brother mentioned in Matthew's Gospel comes to fill the gap left by James. Archeologists have uncovered and I report When James is murdered, it is Simon who takes over leadership of the movement. Here's what I'm telling you, Jesus', life is the most significant life lived in the history of the world. More songs have been sung to him. More paintings have been painted of him, more lives committed and devoted to following him than anyone who has lived in the history of the world. Here we are, we're opening the scriptures, the word of God. This is the book that God wrote. It's the only perfect thing on the earth. And ultimately the hero of the scriptures is Jesus Christ. In addition, we're here in the year 2023 and we measure time by this man Jesus Christ into BC before Christ ad anod domini, the year of our Lord. We're here as a Christian Church, and the Christian Church is the biggest movement of any sort of kind in the history of the world. Here we are thousands of years later, gathering with billions of Christians around the earth and we're singing and declaring that Jesus Christ is our God, Lord and savior, that ours is the visited planet, and that we are the loved and forgiven people. And we're worshiping Jesus today on a holiday, which means a holy day. We celebrate his death on Good Friday, his resurrection on Easter Sunday. And furthermore, we get together

every Christmas, the biggest party in the history of the world, to celebrate with great gladness and joy that the Son of God has come to restore our relationship with the Father and to bring us back into the father's family. That being said, I want you to know Jesus Christ, I want you to belong to Jesus Christ. And during this Christmas season, the greatest thing you can do is accept. Accept rather this free gift of grace that God died and rose so that you could live as a child of God forever and ever. And I want this to be the gift that you receive. Some would ask, well, what is God doing now? The same thing he's always done. He's building his family. And right now, the reason you are here or hearing this word is because God is inviting you into his family. All you need to do is give Jesus your sin and receive him as your savior. And my hope per and goal is I've been praying for you all week, is that this would not just be for you, but for your family. And as we look at Jesus' family, it's the most significant family in the history of the world. And we see three things. Number one, God was the center of their family. Is God the center of your family? Number two, everyone in their family served God. Is your family activated in serving God? And number three, everyone in their family was filled with the Holy Spirit. We hear that Jesus was filled and led by the Holy Spirit. We know that Mary prophesied and sang when it was announced that she would give birth to Jesus. And she did so by the power of the Holy Spirit, Zacharia, his uncle, prophesied by the power of the Holy Spirit. Uh, Elizabeth, his aunt, prophesied by the power of the Holy Spirit. John the Baptizer, his cousin from his mother's womb was filled with the Holy Spirit. His brothers under inspirational. The Holy Spirit wrote books of the Bible. The key is this, you don't need money. You need Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You don't need power. You need Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You don't need fame. You need Jesus and the Holy Spirit. And so what we're going to do now, we're going to celebrate and worship together. I'm gonna invite the band up. It's a Christmas miracle. We're at the end of the sermon. But here's what I want you to know. There is a God, and his name is Jesus Christ. There is a savior, and his name is Jesus Christ. Amen. There is a way to eternal life and the family reunion in heaven, and that is through the person and work of Jesus Christ. Amen. Amen. And so what we're gonna do in just a moment, we're gonna worship Jesus. And here's what I want you to know. Jesus is alive right now. He died. He rose. He conquered sin and death. And right now he is high and exalted seated on a throne. He is surrounded by departed saints and divine beings, and they're worshiping him. And right now, Christians around the globe are joining and together our song and our praise and our adoration will go into His presence and we're going to worship him until one day we see him 'cause our God and Savior Jesus Christ. He's coming back. One more time. The dead will rise. The curse will be lifted. Heaven will be open, and the family will be together forever. Amen. Merry Christmas. Let me pray for you. Lord God, Thank you so much that you are a Father. Thank you that Jesus Christ is our big brother, Lord King and Savior. On this great day, we invite the Holy Spirit to fill us, to lead us, to guide us God, if there's any that have been a prodigal and they've wandered away, I pray they come back to the Father and the family today. God, if there are any who have been living his orphans, I pray that today, holy Spirit, you would touch them and introduce them to Jesus and bring them to the Father and reunite them to the family. And Jesus, as we come to sing and praise, we thank you that you're alive and well. We know you're gonna hear our singing and praying, and we long for the day when we see you face to face, and we enter into the family reunion that never ever ends. Jesus, we love you. We thank you. We praise you in Jesus' name. Please stand and join us for worship.