

TRUTH & LIGHT

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NOT ASHAMED TO CALL THEM BRETHREN

"Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him and called Him. A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, 'Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You.' Answering them, He said, 'Who are My mother and My brothers?' Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He said, 'Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother,'" (Mark 3:31-35).

Even at the early age of 12, when family is such a vital and necessary part of our development in life, Jesus made sure His immediate physical family would in no way take precedent over the spiritual family He was a part of. *"His mother said to Him, 'Son, why have You treated us this way?*

Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You.' And He said to them, 'Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?'" (Lk. 2:48-49). While Jesus grew up in subjection to His earthly parents (Lk. 2:51), He never allowed the inevitable close bond that exists even between a mother and son to direct or influence the spiritual priorities set by His Heavenly Father.

"When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come.'" (John 2:3-4). But to keep from making the wrong application, Jesus in no way teaches us to serve God as a priority in such a way which results in **neglect** to our earthly families. *"Why do you yourselves transgress the*

commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother is to be put to death.' But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever I have that would help you has been given to God," he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And by this you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition," (Matt. 15:3-6). While it was always the priority of Jesus to do His Heavenly Father's will and to die as a sacrifice for the sins of all mankind, it wasn't pursued in such a way as to neglect the need to care for His mother (John 19:25-27). How, then, do we make sense of His challenging call to discipleship, warning us that we cannot love our families more than we love the Lord? *"Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's enemies will be the members of his household. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does*

not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it," (Matt. 10:34-39). When we go back to the context of the statement Jesus made about His true family being those who do the will of God (Mk. 3:35), we actually discover this shocking statement coming as a response to the reason his physical family wanted to speak with him, which was to pull Him away from His public ministry. *"And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, 'He has lost His senses.'"* (Mk. 3:20-21).

- Daniel Ruegg

Stolen Car (Author: Unknown)

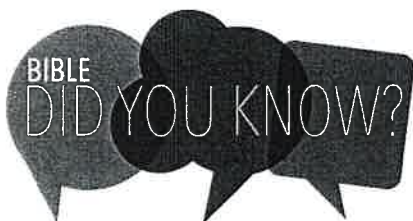
The light turns green, but the man doesn't notice. The woman waits, but the man doesn't notice the light change. The woman begins pounding on her steering wheel and yelling at the man to move. The man doesn't move. The woman is going ballistic inside her car, ranting and raving at the man, pounding on her steering wheel and dash. The light turns

yellow. The woman begins to blow the car horn and scream curses at the man. The man, hearing the commotion, looks up, sees the yellow light and accelerates through the intersection just as the light turned red.

The woman is beside herself, screaming in frustration as she misses her chance to get through the intersection. As she is still in mid-rant she hears a tap on her window and looks up into the barrel of a gun held by a very serious looking policeman. The policeman tells her to shut off her car while keeping both hands in sight. She complies, speechless at what is happening. After she shuts off the engine, the policeman orders her to exit her car with her hands up. She gets out of the car and he orders her to turn and place her hands on her car. She turns, places her hands on the car roof and quickly is cuffed and hustled into the patrol car. She is too bewildered by the chain of events to ask any questions and is driven to the police station where she is fingerprinted, photographed, searched, booked and placed in a cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approaches the cell and opens the door for her. She is escorted back to the booking desk where the original officer

is waiting with her personal effects. He hands her the bag containing her things, and says, "I'm really sorry for this mistake. But you see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn and cussing a blue streak at the car in front of you and then I noticed the "Choose Life" license plateholder and the "Follow Me to Sunday School" bumper sticker and the chrome plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally I assumed you had stolen the car.



Jesus performed so many wonderful works while here on earth that there isn't enough space in the world to contain all the books it would take to detail them! "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written," Jn. 21:25

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

- What city did angels call the "City of David" when talking to shepherds?**
 - Jerusalem
 - Bethlehem
 - Cana
 - Chorazin
- Which did Paul say was the more important gift given by God?**
 - Gift of Interpretation
 - Speaking in Tongues
 - Prophecy
 - Gift of healing
- What did Jesus hand to Judas to show the other disciples that he would betray Jesus?**
 - Bread
 - Cup
 - Money
 - Garment
- Who was the legal heir to the throne of King Saul before Saul died?**
 - David
 - Abner
 - Samuel
 - Jonathan
- What name did Naomi choose for herself?**
 - Arethra
 - Malania
 - Moana
 - Mara
- In what town did Jesus attend a wedding?**
 - Nazareth
 - Jerusalem
 - Cana
 - Bethany
- Which leader of Israel was a head taller than his people?**
 - Moses
 - Saul
 - David
 - Solomon
- Where did Jacob have his dream of a ladder or stairway?**
 - Dan
 - Bethel
 - Bethesda
 - Jerusalem
- Which prophet, before his wife died, was told by God not to observe Jewish mourning traditions?**
 - Jeremiah
 - Ezekiel
 - Joel
 - Isaiah
- Who asked Jesus to perform his first recorded miracle?**
 - Leper
 - Satan
 - Peter
 - Mary

- 1) B, Reference: Lk. 2:4-11
- 2) C, Reference: 1 Cor. 14:1-5
- 3) A, Reference: Jn. 3:26
- 4) D, Reference: 1 Sam. 14:49
- 5) D, Reference: Ruth 1:20
- 6) C, Reference: Jn. 2:1
- 7) B, Reference: 1 Sam. 9:2
- 8) B, Reference: Gen. 28:10-12
- 9) B, Reference: Ezk. 24:15-18
- 10) D, Reference: Jn. 2:1-11