



Jesus' Family and Entourage

Who were the significant people in
Jesus' life?



1. The Immediate Family

- Mary + Joseph
 - 7 Children: (Matthew 13:55, 56 and Mark 6:3)
 - Jesus (Yeshua or Joshua in English)
 - James (Ya'akov or Jacob in English)
 - Joseph (or Joses)
 - Simon
 - Judas (or Jude)
 - at least 2 girls (Salome, Mary according to ancient tradition)



2. The Cousin: John

- Cousin: John the Baptizer*
 - Parents: Zechariah + Elizabeth (Luke 1:5)
 - Elizabeth a relative of Mary MoJ (Luke 1:36)
 - Lived in the hill country of Judea
 - Priestly family
 - Born 6 months prior to Jesus, during reign of Herod the Great (Luke 1:5 – i.e. 7-5? BCE)

* John the Baptist, John the Immerser, John the Water-Dude



Cousin John (continued)

- John was a Nazirite (Luke 1:15)*
 - A Nazirite was a Torah-observant Jew who had taken a special vow of “separation” from ordinary society for some spiritual purpose.
 - A Nazirite was dedicated to the service of God, abstained from wine, did not shave and avoided contact with the dead
 - Can be for a lifetime or for a specific period of time
 - Laws for Nazirites: Numbers 6:1-21
 - Other Nazirites: Samson, Samuel

* interestingly, one of Jesus’ brothers, James, was also a Nazirite



Cousin John (continued)

- Ministry: mid 20's CE
- Location: wilderness of Judea/Jordan River
- Focus:
 - Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is imminent (Matthew 3:2)
 - Baptism as a sign of return to the Torah and Covenant with God
- Popular



Cousin John

- Habits:
 - Clothed in camel's hair, leather belt
 - Ate: locusts and wild honey (Matthew 3:4)
- Had students/disciples
(e.g. Simon Peter and Andrew, brothers who later became Jesus' disciples)
- Death
 - Imprisoned by Herod Antipas; eventually beheaded



3. Patrons who funded Jesus' ministry (late 20's CE)

- Mary Magdalene
- Joanna (wife of Herod's chief steward Chuza)
- Susanna
- and many others who provided for them out of their resources (Luke 8:2,3)



4. Disciples

- Lists: Mark 3:13-19; Matthew 10:1-4, Luke 6:12-16
 - Some differences (e.g. different names)
- Consensus
 - Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John
 - Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas
 - James, Jude, Simon, Judas Iscariot



Disciple Lists

Matthew 10:1-4

1. Simon Peter
2. Andrew (his brother)
3. James, son of Zebedee
4.

John, son of Zebedee
5. Philip
6. Bartholomew
7. Thomas
8.

Matthew = Levi, son of Alphaeus
9. James, son of Alphaeus
10.

Thaddaeus (Lebbaeus) = Jude
11. Simon the Cananaean
12. Judas Iscariot who betrayed him

Luke 6:

1. Simon Peter
2. Andrew (his brother)
3. James
4. John
5.

Philip
6. Bartholomew
7. Matthew
8. Thomas
9.

James, son of Alphaeus
10. Simon the Zealot
11. Judas (of James)
12.

Judas Iscariot, traitor



Common Names

- Jesus' brothers include a **James, Jude** (or Judas), **Simon** and a Joseph
- Disciples include a **James, Jude, Simon**
- Mary, wife of Clophas (Alphaeus) had children which included a **James, Jude** and **Simon**
- Do we have 9 individuals? Or 3?



Understanding the Brothers:

- Mary would have been in her early teens when she married Joseph – probably 12 or 13.
- Joseph may have been considerably older.

Understanding the Brothers:

Model #1 (full brothers)

Mary + Joseph

Jesus – James – Joseph – Simon – Judas – 2 girls

- Natural reading of the text.
- Accords with Jesus Movement/Ebionite views.
- Not dependent upon any theology of Mary
- Rejects virgin birth stories (at least literally)
- View of liberal Protestants; many scholars

Understanding the Brothers:

Model #2 (half brothers)

Holy Spirit + Mary + Joseph

|
Jesus

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James – Joseph – Simon –
Judas – 2 girls

- Jesus' birth special (virgin birth as literal).
- Accepted by some Protestants

Understanding the Brothers: Model #3 (Stepbrothers)

Holy Spirit + Mary + Joseph + ?

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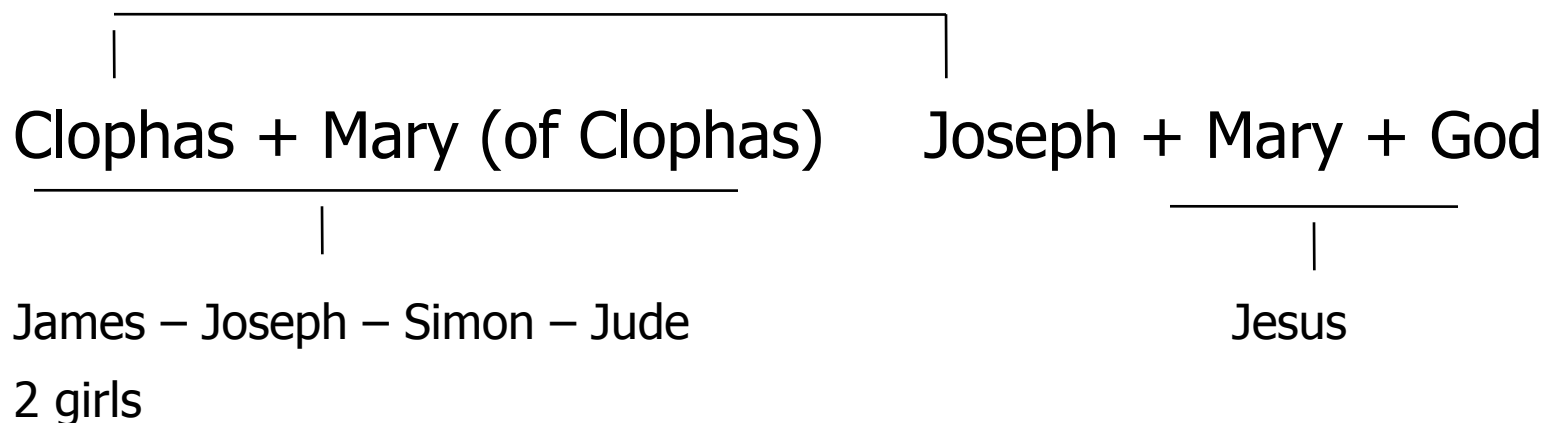
Jesus

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James – Joseph – Simon –
Judas – 2 girls

- Joseph previously married.
- So the brothers were stepbrothers
- View of Orthodox Christianity
- Leaves open whether Mary and Joseph had sexual relations and thus accommodates the perpetual virginity of Mary doctrine

Understanding the Brothers: Model #4: First Cousins



- 'Brother' = 'cousin' or 'kin'
- Is the view of the Roman Catholic Church
- Protects the Perpetual Virginity of Mary doctrine
- Goes back to the 4th century CE



Note

- The perpetual virginity status of Mary (never had sex with anyone) drives models #3 (stepbrothers) and #4 (first cousins).

Understanding the Brothers:

Model #5 (different fathers)

?* + Mary + Joseph

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Jesus

|
James – Joseph – Simon –
Judas – 2 girls

- Possible rape victim by a Roman soldier; possible affair

Understanding the Brothers:

Model #6 (different fathers)

? + Mary + Clophas

(Alphaeus, Joseph's Brother)

Jesus

James – Joseph – Simon –
Judas – 2 girls

See: James D. Tabor, **The Jesus Dynasty** (Simon & Shuster, 2006)

Understanding the Brothers: Model #7: Don't Know



Mary + the man (or men) in
her life (whoever they were)

|
Jesus – James – Joseph – Simon – Judas – 2
girls



Understanding the Disciples

- Are they students of Rabbi Jesus? (a religious interpretation)
- Are they the inner cabinet of King Jesus? (a political interpretation)