

Gate
Breaker
Ministries

Was Jesus Married?

A woman at a recent Christian gathering in our region upset a few others by slamming her bible on the table and challenging the group, "Where in the bible does it say that Jesus was not married?"

This challenge tries to place the burden for proof square on the shoulders of those who believe that Jesus was single and celibate his entire life. But are adherents who hold the traditions of Jesus as a virgin His entire life really the ones who must prove the case? I think not!

The bible would have plainly stated if Jesus were married. The Scripture expounds upon the personal lives of other notable figures such as Moses, Noah, Abraham, and Peter who all had wives; whereas Jeremiah was told not to take a wife (Jr. 16:2). Paul said he was unmarried (1st Cr. 7:8). Certainly then, the marriage of the most important Person in the bible would have clearly been stated.

Jesus did refer to Himself in parables as "the bridegroom" (MT 9:15; 25:1-10),

but his followers knew that He was not literally married to one woman. Both Paul and John understood that He is the bridegroom of the Church (Eph. 5:25; Rev. 19:7)

Today, fictional writers and movie makers try to reinvent Jesus' marital and paternal status for money making schemes. However, the early church fathers knew better.

Methodius (260-312AD) stated well Jesus' position in his discourse *The Banquet of the Ten Virgins*: "It was fitting that He who was first and chief of priests, of prophets, and of angels, should also be saluted as first and chief of virgins . . . And the Word, when He was incarnate, became chief Virgin."

As early as 96 AD Clement of Rome associated Isaiah 53:8 with Jesus: "No one will ever recount his descendants, for his life was destroyed from off the earth."

Justin Martyr (100-165) wrote of Jesus: "And when He had been born, and had submitted to the other conditions of the flesh, - I mean

food, drink, and clothing, - this one condition only of discharging the sexual function He did not submit to; for regarding the desires of the flesh, He accepted some (continued on page 4)

Transition

Big changes are coming for my ministry, family, and church! On February 18 I announced to our congregation at the House of the Lord in Oldtown, Idaho, that the Lord is transitioning me out of senior pastor ministry and into full time Gate Breaker Ministries.

After many months of prayer and much confirmation, my wife, Kathleen, and I know this is the Lord's will for us. We will remain at HOTL until the end of July to help with the transition and then relocate to Boise, Idaho. It was a difficult decision. I have been on staff at HOTL for 27 years. Some of our best friends are there. Words cannot adequately express our gratitude to them. It is an amazing

Inside this issue:

Was Jesus married?	1
Transition	1
The Jesus Family Tomb?	2
Knowing God's Will	2
Contact & Schedule	3
Books for sale	3
Why Gate Breakers?	4

Website😊

Gate Breaker Ministries has a brand new website at www.Gatebreakers.com

On the site you can order books, read articles and past newsletters, listen to audio portions of teaching, check out my upcoming schedule, consider a seminar format for your church, or email me with questions and thoughts. I hope you visit!

church!

We hope to raise financial and prayer support! Please prayerfully consider becoming a partner with Gate Breaker Ministries. Contact me for more information about the opportunity to be involved. Thank you!

The Jesus Family Tomb?

One of the foundational beliefs of Christianity taught in the Bible is that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and after forty days ascended into heaven. According to Scripture, it was not only the apostles who witnessed this but over 500 others. Yet, there is occasionally a critic who comes along attempting to disprove it all. Around Easter is often the target time; this not only produces the most exposure but also the most profit.

On Monday, February 26, in the New York Public Library, director James Cameron (Titanic) presented two stone coffins. One of them, a light tan limestone box about two feet long, he said was the burial box of Jesus Christ. Thus, he is attempting to refute the claim that Jesus rose from the dead.

Along with Simcha Jacobovici and others, Cameron has produced a documentary for the Discovery Channel entitled *The Jesus Family Tomb*. There is also a book by Jacobovici of the same title. Cameron boldly proclaims that Jesus and Mary Magdalene, whom he says was Jesus' wife, and their son, Judah, as well as other family members were buried in the Jerusalem suburb of Talpiot. In 1980 ten limestone bone boxes were excavated. DNA tests done on the residue (no bones were there) from inside the box of Jesua, son of Joseph and Mariamene e Mara, whom

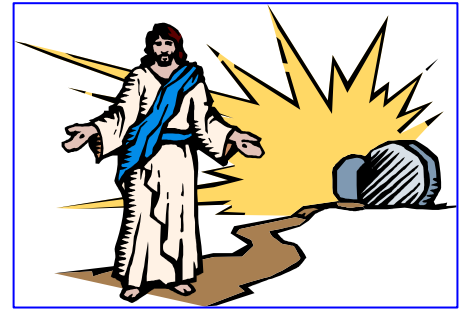
he says is Mary Magdalene, show no family relation. Therefore, Cameron concludes they were husband and wife and Judah was their son.

The Bible not only says Jesus' tomb was emptied when He rose from the dead but places His tomb in an entirely different area than the one Cameron claims to be His.

The lack of sufficient scientific and historical evidence for Cameron and Jacobovici's claims has brought criticism not only from the Christian sector but others as well. Israel's prominent archeologist, Professor Amos Kloner was the first to examine the cite of the ten coffins contained in a luxury crypt. He did not associate it with the New Testament Jesus whose father was a humble carpenter. All the recovered names are also quite common. 1 out of 10 people were named Jesua at that time and 1 out of 4 were named Mary. Cameron's association of Mariamene e Mara being Mary Magdalene is also faulty reasoning as the first use of Mariamene for Magdalene dates to no earlier than 185 AD. So Mary Magdalene would not have been called Mariamene at her death.

All the recovered names are also quite common. 1 out of 10 people were named Jesua at that time and 1 out of 4 were named Mary.

In *Time's* internet article "Is This Jesus' Tomb?", David Van Biema cites numerous refutations to Cameron and Jacobovici's con-



"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! — John 24:5-6

clusions, including that of Richard Bauckham of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He says the probability of it being the famous Jesus family is quite low.

There are numerous reasons why it does not make sense at all:

- Dr. Craig Evans, PhD, author of *Jesus and the Ossuaries* is not even sure that Jesus' name is on the coffin. He thinks it could be the name "Hanun."
- Why didn't Jesus' enemies, the Jewish leaders, expose the tomb?
- Why would Jesus' family or followers bury His bones and then preach that He rose from the dead and thus face torture if it were a hoax?
- Why does Cameron cite James' ossuary as evidence since it has been proven to be a fraud?
- A few miles away from the burial cite in the old city of Jerusalem, Christians since early times have been visiting the empty tomb of Christ at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.
- Why didn't contemporary Roman or Jewish historians write about the tomb?
- The famous Jesus' family were from Nazareth. That is where the family tomb would be.

The Jesus' Family Tomb was not the burial cite of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. He ascended into heaven and will one (continued on page 4)

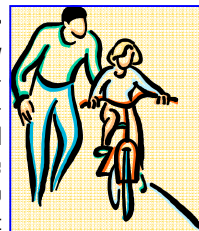
Knowing God's Will

How do we know God's will? It seems impossible at times, but then again, to a toddler, some things grown-ups do would be impossible for him or her. But a father can train a child to have more and more understanding as he or she matures. Knowing what pleases the father comes through experience.

Discerning God's will has to do with (1) our relationship, (2) our maturity, and (3) the complexity of the decision.

First—Relationship with God: People who do not have a close, intimate relationship with God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) will have a much harder time discerning His

will with regard to a certain activity or direction than one who is close. They may want to know God's best for them regarding a career, spouse, place to live, relational problem or a need but feel like God isn't telling them. Why? Because the Father is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:23) not those who simply have questions but do not wish to commit to a covenant relationship. Jesus said that the will of the Father is to give eternal life to all those who believe in Jesus (John 4:40).



Father's school

Paul told us that God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1st Tim. 2:4). So initially, God's will for each one is relationship. It is life with God!

Second—maturity in Christ: Once we live in Him, the Father's will for a newborn Christian will be to thrive, grow, and learn to walk; but the older ones, He teaches to run, ride a bike, and do more mature things in His school of the Spirit. Some people misunderstand and think that God wants to control and tell them every little thing to do, such as

Contact Information

Dr. Stan Fleming, Gate Breaker Ministries, 754 Silver Birch Lane, Oldtown, ID 83822
 Website: Gatebreakers.com— It is all new. Take a peek!
 Email: sfleming@ gatebreakers.com
 Phone: (208) 437-2032
 Questions: For inquiries regarding articles and topics of interest, please email me.

SPECIAL MINISTRY EVENTS:

April—June, 2007

- 4/12-14: Columbus, GA—Teaching *The History of the Early Church*
- 4/19: Priest River—Teaching on Islam.
- 4/23-25: Hayden, ID—Minister’s Fellowship International.
- 5/18-20: Lacey, WA—Gate Breakers Conference.
- 6/12-17: Taipei, Taiwan—Preaching and teaching on *The History of the Early Church*.

- 6/18-26: Sibiu, East Malaysia—Preaching and teaching on *The History of the Early Church*

Response to notable E mails

- Thanks to Wanda Parrish for her kind email expressing appreciation for my teaching and ministry to her brother, Donnie Mays, at Easterling Correctional facility. Please pray for Donnie as he fights for justice in his case.
- Thanks to Herb Frizzell who purchased my book *Servants of the Third Watch* in a Texas thrift store and wrote to tell me that God had given him the same revelation in the 1980’s. God’s blessing on your proposed book!

Knowing God’s Will
(Continued)

what color to paint the wall or what to eat for breakfast. Yet, God gives choices and even learning to choose will train us.

Part of the beginning of training for a child has to do with obedience. “How far can I ride, Father?” we ask. “Stay near here for now until you ride well,” He answers. The Father nurtures and teaches us to obey because He loves us and knows what is best. Jesus obeyed the Father in all things. He said, “not as I will, but as You will” (MT. 26:39). We must submit our will to God. A stubborn, strong-headed child must have his / her will broken (not the spirit but the will) in order to prepare that child for maturity and all the demands of responsible living that come with maturity.

The Bible literally says some things that are the will of God. Here are some examples:

- All should repent to God (Acts 17:30; 1st PT 3:10)
- We should renew our minds in Christ (RM 12:2)
- We should stay sexually pure (1st TH 4:3)

If one has not repented (turned to God), renewed his / her mind, or is sexually impure, God’s will for that one is

A stubborn, strong-headed child must have his / her will broken (not the spirit but the will) in order to prepare that child for maturity and all the demands of responsible living that come with maturity.

written. Wanting to be soft towards God, having our mind like Christ, and being pure before Him gives right perspective for maturity. Growth!

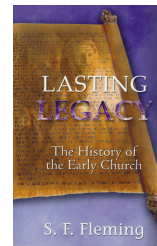
It should seem obvious that the commands of God are His will. Jesus commanded, “love one another” (John 15:17). This is

His will. There are also principles of God found in the Bible that express His will. For instance, the author of *Hebrews* says that feeding upon God’s principles and words of righteousness as revealed in Scripture is like solid food for mature believers and gives discernment between good and evil (HB 5:12-6:2).

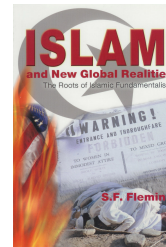
Maturation has to do with learning faithfulness in the little things that God asks us to do (MT 25:21). In the parable of the talents, Jesus said that this is how one becomes a ruler in God’s kingdom. Being consistent in the little things that God asks you to do helps make you a leader in knowing what He honors. God asks new believers to learn faithfulness in things like prayer, bible reading, serving others, giving, working through problems in a righteous way, etc. These teach us God’s will because they train us about God’s perspective of things—how He thinks!

God teaches us by different methods during different

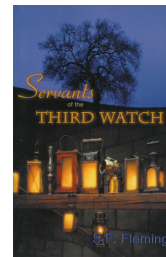
BOOKS FOR SALE



Lasting Legacy: Discover the roots of Christian faith, the facts, legends, people, movements, and miracles from Christ to the Council of Chalcedon in 451AD.



Islam and New Global Realities: Know the current issues, history and doctrines of Islam. Learn what the *Koran* says about Jesus and how it can be used to share the Good News with Muslims.

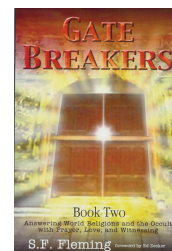


Servants of the Third Watch is based on a prophetic vision that the Lord gave me about the modern Church. What is the midnight hour of the Church? It may be closer than you think.



Gate Breakers is now in two volumes. Book One equips Christians regarding cults, and Book Two deals with world religions and the occult.

Book One is also available in Spanish.



These are great, easy-to-read resource books for individual or group studies. You don’t have to be an expert to teach from these. A perfect gift for pastors and students of Christianity.

BOOK ORDERING:

- **On-line:** It is new! You can now order and pay for books at Gatebreakers.com
- **Price:** \$12.00 each. \$3.50 shipping for one book. Add .50 cents for each additional book. 10% discount on 5 or more. Contact GBM for discount on larger orders.
- **Direct order:** Make checks payable to *Gate Breaker Ministries*. Send to: 754 Silver Birch Lane, Oldtown, Idaho 83822. Please specify which books you are ordering.



Gate Breaker Ministries
754 Silver Birch Lane
Oldtown, ID 83822

Was Jesus Married? (Continued)

as necessary, while others which were unnecessary, He did not submit to . . . At the same time He foretold that, in the future world, sexual intercourse should be done away with."

Tertullian, the great early theologian stated that Jesus was a virgin in his work *on Monogamy*. Also, we know that many in the early church sought to imitate Jesus by remaining celibate.

Thus, Jesus was not married to one woman but embraces the Church as His bride! He will come again for His bride, the Church. Are you part of His Church?

Notes

Methodius, *Banquet of the Ten Virgins*, chap 4-5.
Clement, *1st Epistle of Clement*, chap. 16.
Justin Martyr, *On the Resurrection*, chap. 3.
Tertullian, *On Monogamy*, chap. 3.

Jesus Family Tomb? (Continued)

day return as He said He would (Acts 1:8-11; MT 26:64). There is a constant attack today on the fact of Jesus' resurrection. Unbelievers attempt to refute what seems impossible, yet for those willing to search out the truth, it can transform their lives. Praise Jesus!

19th century Harvard law professor, Simon Greenleaf, was an example of an unbeliever who tested the resurrection account of Jesus against the modern standards used in judicial and evidentiary proof. To his astonishment, he dis-

covered that the biblical account of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection would stand up in a modern court case. After months of research, Greenleaf gave his own life to the One who said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25).

Notes

David Van Biema "Is This Jesus' Tomb? *Time* (Feb. 26, 2007) <www.time.com>
"The Jesus Family Tomb: Fact or Fiction?, <www.Y-zinecom.
"Cameron coffin' is 2007 Easter attack, *World Net Daily*, (Feb. 28, 2007) <www.worldnetdaily
Simon Greenleaf, wikipedia.org

Knowing God's Will (Continued)

seasons because He wants to broaden our understanding.

In my early Christian experience, I once asked a wise, elderly woman who was mentoring me about an important choice I had. Her words have remained with me all of my life. She said, "Stan, when you have a choice, consider the one that gives you the most peace in your heart: that will normally be the Lord's path for you."

Third—the complexity of the decision. To a newborn everything seems complex, and it is, but a mature Christian has learned to navigate through spiritual circumstances which reveal knowledge, understanding, and wisdom about His ways and thus, His will. For example, a mature Christian has grown through prayer and reading God's Word to know that God wants him / her to worship the true and living God, marry in the faith, witness for Christ, seek all of the spiritual gifts and the fruit of the Spirit, attend, participate in and tithe to a local church, give to the poor, quickly resolve conflicts with Christians, raise a godly heritage, treat others kindly, protect right doctrine and the people of God, etc. These things and more are revealed gradually as God teaches us in His school.

Don't be overwhelmed! God guides us through. He

schools us, tests us, and then lets us make choices to see if we have learned. Whereas He often tells little children exactly what to do, He entrusts an older one to do what is right.

For instance, suppose a brother asks you to be involved in what you deem to be a questionable activity. He sees nothing wrong with it and asks you to pray about it. Well, if you are spiritually young, the Lord may quickly warn you to stay clear from such a thing through counsel, a check in your spirit, a dream, a timely sermon, or some other means. Yet, if you are a mature Christian, you have learned—on one hand—not to judge a brother (Mt. 7:1-2), but—on the other hand—to spiritually judge all things (1st CR 2:10-15). The Lord has poured wisdom into your life and He wants you to use it. As you pray, the Lord might not say "yes" or "no." He may ask, "What do you think?" You say, "Lord, it is a carnal activity." He says, "What will you do about it?" You respond, "Well I would like to expose the problem in a right way (1st Cr. 3:1-4; Eph. 5:11), but also rescue the brother (Gal. 6:1). Then God gives you advice about how to do that. This is more complex than a simple yes or no on the will of God.

The complexity of knowing God's will is also seen in my recent adventure in the Spirit. I spent over five months trying to discern God's will for something. My wife, Kathleen, was right there with me. It took many prayerful moments because the decision involved our family, ministry, church, friends, relocation, finances, and desire. I finally knew God's will, or at least the beginning of it. He distinctly revealed it to me. In this experience I am learning (once again) that it is not all "yes" and "no". At points in this spiritual adventure, I sense the Lord responding with a "yes" or "no". Yet, there are also choices that I have the privilege and responsibility to make based upon what I have learned. I ask the Holy Spirit's help on the difficult or important decisions because He sees what I do not. He is "the Helper" according to John 14:16, and He loves to help us with our needs.

God desires (1) to have relationship with you, (2) to raise you up into maturity, and (3) to help you discern His will even with complex decisions. Your job is to obey, listen, trust, and acknowledge Him (Pr. 3:1-6). He has your best interest in mind.