

I believe that understanding Jesus begins with acknowledging His roots. Jesus was Jewish. He was born into a Jewish family, practiced Judaism, and lived in a predominantly Jewish society in the region of Judea (modern-day Israel and Palestine) during the first century CE. He was circumcised according to Jewish law (Luke 2:21), participated in Jewish festivals like Passover (Luke 2:41-42), and regularly attended synagogue services (Luke 4:16).

When I read His teachings, I see how often He referenced Jewish scriptures—what we now call the Old Testament—and how He engaged with Jewish religious leaders, discussing interpretations of the Torah. While His message introduced new perspectives, it was deeply rooted in Jewish traditions and beliefs.

What strikes me most is how Jesus often spoke against hypocrisy, legalism, and injustice, especially when these were perpetuated by religious leaders who prioritized rules over compassion. His critiques were never against Judaism itself but against how some individuals misused religious authority. Here's what I've come to understand about the key themes Jesus addressed:

1. Hypocrisy in Religious Leaders:

- **Jesus criticized the Pharisees and teachers of the law for outward displays of piety while neglecting justice, mercy, and faithfulness (Matthew 23:23-28).**
- **He condemned performing religious acts just to gain attention rather than to honor God (Matthew 6:1-5).**

2. Legalism Over Compassion:

- **Jesus challenged strict interpretations of the Sabbath laws when they ignored human needs (Mark 2:27: “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath”).**
- **He healed the sick on the Sabbath, showing me that compassion always outweighs rigid rule-keeping (Luke 13:10-17).**

3. Exploitation and Injustice:

- **I picture Him overturning the tables of money changers in the temple, condemning those who turned a house of prayer into a marketplace (Matthew 21:12-13).**

- He denounced leaders who burdened others with heavy demands without offering any help (Luke 11:46).

4. Pride and Self-Righteousness:

- Jesus emphasized humility, teaching that those who exalt themselves will be humbled (Luke 18:9-14).
- The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector highlights the danger of self-righteousness in a way that still challenges me today.

5. Wealth and Greed:

- He warned against storing up earthly treasures and neglecting spiritual riches (Luke 12:15-21).
- When Jesus told the rich young ruler to sell his possessions and give to the poor, it showed me how wealth can become an idol if it stands between us and God (Matthew 19:21-24).

6. Exclusion and Lack of Love:

- Jesus often reached out to the marginalized—tax collectors, prostitutes, sinners, women, Samaritans, and Gentiles—breaking social barriers that many thought were unbreakable (John 4:7-26, Luke 19:1-10).
- His greatest commandment was to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:36-40), a simple yet profound call that I strive to live by.

Jesus' message consistently calls me—and all of us—back to the heart of God's law: love, mercy, justice, and humility. His confrontations weren't against faith itself but against those who claimed to represent God while failing to embody His character.

Why Wasn't Jesus Married?

Scripture doesn't explicitly explain why Jesus wasn't married, but as I reflect on His life and purpose, I see some reasons:

1. His Divine Mission Took Priority

- Jesus came to fulfill a unique purpose: to proclaim the Kingdom of God, teach, heal, and ultimately sacrifice His life for humanity's salvation (Luke 19:10, Mark

10:45).

- His mission involved constant travel, facing persecution, and living with a deep focus on spiritual matters—things that may not have been compatible with the responsibilities of marriage and family life.

2. Singleness as a Model of Devotion

- Jesus embodied complete devotion to God. In Matthew 19:12, He speaks of those who have “made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven,” meaning some choose singleness to fully dedicate themselves to God’s work. I believe this reflects His own choice.
- Paul later echoed this in 1 Corinthians 7:32-35, saying that singleness allows for undivided attention to the Lord’s affairs.

3. A Sign of the Coming Kingdom

- Jesus’ life often pointed to a greater, eternal reality. In Matthew 22:30, He explains that in the resurrection, people “neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven.” His singleness may have symbolized the new order of God’s kingdom, where earthly relationships are transformed.

4. Fulfillment of Prophetic Roles

- Jesus is often portrayed as the “bridegroom” in a spiritual sense, with His followers (the Church) as His bride (John 3:29, Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7). This imagery reflects a deep, covenantal relationship with all believers, rather than with one earthly spouse.

While the Bible doesn’t give a direct answer, I believe Jesus’ singleness was intentional, aligning with His mission, teachings, and the spiritual realities He revealed.

Was Jesus Homosexual?

There’s no evidence in Scripture to support the idea that Jesus was homosexual or that He was ashamed of any part of His identity. When I read the Gospels, I see a focus on His divine mission, teachings, compassion, and sacrificial love for all people—not on personal romantic relationships.

Why Does This Question Come Up?

Some modern interpretations speculate about this, often based on His close relationships with His disciples, like John, “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23), or His friendship with Mary Magdalene. But in the context of the first-century Jewish world, deep same-sex friendships were common and expressed warmly without implying romantic or sexual undertones. The Greek words *agape* (selfless love) and *philia* (brotherly love) describe these relationships—not *eros* (romantic/sexual love).

Jesus’ Identity and Purpose:

- Jesus embodied perfect love that transcended human categories of romance or sexuality.
- His mission was to redeem humanity, not to establish a personal family or romantic relationship.
- Scripture describes Jesus as sinless (2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:15), living in full alignment with God’s will without shame.

What Scripture Teaches About Shame:

Jesus often confronted shame—not His own, but the shame society placed on others. He welcomed the outcasts, touched the untouchable, and forgave the unforgivable. Hebrews 12:2 says that Jesus “endured the cross, despising the shame,” facing public humiliation with courage because of His love for humanity.

Jesus and Homosexuality: Why the Silence?

I’ve noticed that Jesus never directly addressed homosexuality in the Gospels. Instead, He spoke explicitly against issues like hypocrisy, injustice, pride, and legalism. This silence invites reflection on what mattered most to Him.

What Jesus Focused On:

1. The Heart Over Rules:

Jesus emphasized the heart’s intentions over rigid legalism (Matthew 22:37-40). His greatest commandments were to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves.

2. Challenging Exclusion:

He reached out to the marginalized—tax collectors, Samaritans, women, the sick, and others considered “outsiders.” His mission was about radical inclusion and grace.

3. Sexual Ethics Rooted in Commitment and Faithfulness:

When Jesus spoke about sexual matters, He focused on issues like lust, adultery, and divorce, emphasizing faithfulness in relationships (Matthew 5:27-32). Even then, He exposed hypocrisy more than He condemned.

Why the Silence?

- **Cultural Context:**

In first-century Jewish society, same-sex relationships were rarely discussed within Jewish moral teaching because they were already addressed in the Hebrew Scriptures. Jesus didn't often repeat uncontested laws—He spoke where correction was needed.

- **Focus on Justice, Mercy, and Faith:**

Jesus rebuked religious leaders not for failing to enforce laws strictly enough, but for neglecting “the weightier matters of the law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness” (Matthew 23:23). This reveals His priorities.

What This Means for Me Today:

The fact that Jesus never condemned homosexuality makes me reflect on how central it should be in Christian moral discussions. His teachings challenge me to ask:

- **Am I reflecting God's love and justice in how I treat others?**
- **Am I focusing on the heart, relationships, and compassion as Jesus did?**

For many Christians, including myself, His silence on this topic, combined with His radical love and inclusion, shapes a more affirming understanding of LGBTQ+ people within the faith.