

Flesh and Blood

“Flesh and blood”

- Five times in NT
- Synecdoche
 - Set of wheels
 - Hired hands

Implies...

- a. Weakness
- b. Ignorance
- c. Dependence on God

I. Flesh and Blood Cannot Reveal
God's Will, Mt.16:17

Here: flesh and blood could refer to
any mere human calculation

13-14: general public thought well of Him...
(Mk.6:15) . . . but not well enough

15: who do you say I am?

16: Simon *bar* Jonah

17a: flesh and blood = man, with strong
emphasis on his . . .

a. ephemeral character

b. shortsightedness

c. moral weakness

John 7:24

John 8:15

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17a: flesh and blood = man, with strong
emphasis on his . . .

17b: “but My Father in heaven” – 11:25-27

Lesson: we cannot know Son merely by
human reasoning (*flesh and blood*)

Flesh and blood cannot . . .

- **Discover** will of God for us.
 - If it pleases me, it pleases God
 - Music
 - 2 Tim.3:16-17, *inspiration...profitable*
 - Col.3:17, *whatever, word, deed, all...*
 - 2 Jn.9, *transgress, not abide in doctrine*
 - OT – music? . . .
 - NT – music?
 - 2 Sm.1, 4, 6

Flesh and blood cannot . . .

- Discover will of God for us.
- **Destroy** will of God for us.
 - Peter: “If religious leaders don’t know, how can I?”
 - If people disagree with His word . . . they are wrong.
 - Majority? Jn.1:11
 - Rabbis? Jn.7:48
 - Preachers? Mt.15:14

Flesh and blood cannot . . .

- Discover will of God for us.
- Destroy will of God for us.
- **Determine** will of God for us.
 - 23: *to think, hold an opinion, judge.*
 - 1 Co.2¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Without supernatural proof, no one would believe His claims

Flesh and blood cannot . . .

- Discover will of God for us.
- Destroy will of God for us.
- Determine will of God for us.
 - Convict: executed . . . our Savior?
 - Acts 26²⁴ Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!”

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- Discover will of God for us.
- Destroy will of God for us.
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 - Convict: executed . . . our Savior?
 - 1 Co.1²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness.
 - Stumbling block: that which causes offense or revulsion and results in opposition, disapproval, hostility...

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 - Foolishness: our neighbors' reaction to attendance, inviting, teaching...plan of salvation, work of church...

I. Flesh and Blood Cannot Reveal God's Will,
Mt.16:17

II. Flesh and Blood Cannot Add
To God's Word, Gal.1:15-19

Acts 9:6-8...18

- Paul never gave anyone an opportunity to impose his ideas on him
 - Gn3, fruit
 - 1 K.12:9, itching ears
 - Ph.3:4-8, family
- Gal.1:6-10 – one gospel; where did Paul get his gospel?

11-12: not from other men . . . but **revelation of Christ**. (v.1, apostleship of divine origin)

Acts 9:6-8...18

13-14: what happened before his conversion?

- Persecuted, pillaged church

15-16a: what happened during his conversion?

- Conversion drawn out for three days
- 15: God picked him to be apostle. [Jer.1:5]

16b: what happened after his conversion?

- Arabia, 17
- Jerusalem: 3 years; 2 apostles; 15 days, 18-20; 2:9.
- Syria and Cilicia, 20-24

What is the point?

- Flesh and blood cannot improve on Lord's revelation (1:11-12)

Paul's attitude commonly seen in God's messengers –

- Jer.1, God to Jeremiah: Go!
- Joseph, Lk.1, angel – doubted (18)
 - Ever hear of Abraham / Sarah? Gn.18:11f.
 - Ro.4
- Mary, Lk.1:26, same challenge; no doubt (34-38)

Process, 35

Proof, 36

Power, 37

Passion, 38

Paul's attitude commonly seen in God's messengers –

- Ananias, Ac.9:10-14
 - Saul, Ac.9:15-19, 20...22
- Typical worldly attitudes
1. My preacher knows the dodge to that passage
 2. Aunt Suzie died without obeying gospel (Lk.16)
 3. Do most people agree with you? (Jn.1:11)