



Are you my Mummy?

Ruth 1:1-18

Are you my Mummy? Dr Who picture

Here are a number of pictures of women. All of them are mums. Genetically, they are all related to one person. Me. The question for you is – who's my mother out of all these. So because of my genetic relationship, I'm part of the Reid family and the Thomas family.

How do we get to become part of a family – or families? One way is by birth. How did I get on the Earth – because I am the son of two people who decided to have a baby. But birth is not the only way we get to be part of a family..

We can be related by adoption. Here's my family. My children are adopted. But they're still Reids. We chose them to be part of our family and they have all the rights and dubious privileges of being Reids! Actually for older children being adopted, they can make that choice too – we'll come back to that.

There's another way of getting into a family and that's through marriage. Meet the In-Laws. I became part of Rhiannon's family when I married her. Here they are: the Coles.

The interesting thing about families is that we have no choice who we are born to, but we can choose which family we are part of. Usually, most folks create their own! In our story this morning, we had three women Naomi and her daughter in laws Orpah and Ruth. They were related by marriage but all their husbands were dead and Naomi decided to go home to Bethlehem. She didn't oblige here moabite daughters in law to do the same. After all, their marriages were over, their family link was effectively over. Orpah chose to stay in Moab, but Ruth chose to go with Naomi to Bethlehem. Here are her words: "Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." Ruth chose Naomi's people over hers and Naomi's God too. We have no choice who we are born to, but we can and do choose who we live with.

God wants us to be part of His family. He loves the human race and He made a choice to give them a way to join His family. By birth, we as human beings are not part of God's family. Quite the opposite in fact. People spend most of their lives living in a way that displeases Him and pushes them away from Him, not just in life, but throughout eternity. If you don't know God personally this morning, that fact should be self-evident to you.

But God in His love and mercy decided to make a way in which we can choose to know Him and be part of His family. God Himself became human, became a person – and He was taken by the people He created and killed – put on a cross. But that act was the way by which the sin of the human race could be dealt with and through which people could find God's forgiveness and choose to become part of God's family.

Challenge.

And the interesting thing is God uses all three pictures of entry into a family to describe how He makes people part of His. Here they are:

BIRTH

[John 1:11-13 \(NIV\)](#)

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

ADOPTION

Romans 8:15-16

God's Spirit doesn't make us slaves who are afraid of him. Instead, we become his children and call him our Father. God's Spirit makes us sure that we are his children. CEV

MARRIAGE

Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

God wants all of us to be part of His family? How about you?

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Scripture Quotes TEV*