

# THE RADICALLY INCLUSIVE JESUS

*And the Vision of a Safe, Compassionate and More Inclusive Judaism*

**Genesis 2:22-24**—Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

**Genesis 1:27**—So God created humankind in GODS’ OWN IMAGE, in the image of God, They created them; male and female They created them.

**Mark 10:11**—He answered, “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her.”

**Matthew 12:48-50**—He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers.”

- 1) Broadening Definitions
- 2) Affirming those previously “Other-ed.”
  - Seed into soil - Legacy
  - Women are more than soil
  - Other ways to sow seed - Legacy

**Who Wrote the Bible**  
Richard Elliot Friedman

**Matthew 19:1-10**—When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?” Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

“Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?” Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to send away your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who sends away his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.” The disciples said to him, “If this is the situation between a husband and wife, **it is better not to marry.**”

**Matthew 19:10-12**—Jesus replied, “Not everyone can accept this word, but **only those to whom it has been given.** For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live **like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.** The one who can accept this should accept it.”

**Deuteronomy 23:1**—No one who has been emasculated by crushing or cutting may enter the assembly of the LORD.

**Leviticus 21:16-24**—The LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron: ‘For the generations to come none of your descendants who has a defect may come near to offer the food of his God. No man who has any defect may come near: no man who is blind or lame, disfigured or deformed; no man with a crippled foot or hand, or who is a hunchback or a dwarf, or who has any eye defect, or who has festering or running sores or damaged testicles. No descendant of Aaron the priest who has any defect is to come near to present the food offerings to the LORD. He has a defect; he must not come near to offer the food of his God. He may eat the most holy food of his God, as well as the holy food; yet because of his defect, he must not go near the curtain or approach the altar, and so desecrate my sanctuary. I am the LORD, who makes them holy.’ ” So Moses told this to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites.

“That the world may be healed.” — John 3.17  
All Texts Quoted from the NIV Unless Otherwise Noted

Tension that already existed within Judaism

**Isaiah 56:3-8**—Let no foreigner who is bound to the LORD say, “The LORD will surely exclude me from his people.” And let no eunuch complain, “I am only a dry tree.” For this is what the LORD says: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever. And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” The Sovereign LORD declares—he who gathers the exiles of Israel: “I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.”

**Acts 8:36-38**—As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and **the eunuch** said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and **the eunuch** went down into the water and **Philip baptized him**.

**Acts 17:31**—For God has set a day when God will **put right the world with justice** by the man God has appointed. **God has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.**

Jewish Proverb -

**Acts 17:28**—‘We are God’s offspring.’

**Genesis 9:6**—Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made humankind.

#### Steps to be Reversed

1. Defined Normativity
2. Hierarchy
3. Morality = Preserve Normativity  
vs.  
Morality = Non Objectification, Non Dehumanization, Anti Degradation
4. Societal Purging (Exclusion and Expiation)

**Genesis 1:26-27**—Then God said, “Let Us make mankind in Our image, in Our likeness . . . So God created humankind in Their own image, in the image of God, They created them; male and female They created them.

#### The Solidarity of Jesus and the Imago Dei

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