

Family Likenesses

John 12: 44-50

See if you can find some family photos. Some of you may have pictures that go back several generations. You can spot the changing fashions people wear and the different poses which they have adopted over time. Some faces may glare out at you from formal black and white studio prints, others beam in relaxed informality from holidays and celebrations. How many stories lie behind those images?



As you look at those photos, what family features can you spot? A particular wave in the hair, profile, similar height or way of looking? Even without hearing their voices you may notice resemblances. You may have heard that expression, “She’s the very spitting image!” to suggest a particularly close likeness.

Another expression you will have come across is, “a chip off the old block.” Which block are you chipped off? Are parts of your behaviour and attitude like that of any family members from earlier generations?

In our Gospel passage, Jesus says that he is “a chip off the old block”: in verse 45 he says, “The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me.” Jesus reflects his Father, God.

Here’s a thought for you: how far does your life reflect Jesus? What features in your behaviour and attitude show that you are part of his family?

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things thee to see,
And what I do in any thing,
To do it as for thee:
(George Herbert, *The Elixir*)

Rev’d Vicky Barrett