

THE FAMILY OF FAMILIES

Matthew 12:46-50

I. Our biological family is not ultimate (vv. 46-47).

II. Our spiritual family is ultimate (vv. 48-50).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Is it possible to form our own identity purely by looking inward? Why, or why not?
2. What are the three relational spheres God has designed to shape our identities? Which two does Jesus focus on in our text?
3. What do we learn from the other gospels about Christ's half-brothers, and why had they, along with Mary, come to speak to Him? How does this fit with the broader context of Matthew 11-12?
4. Did Jesus stop teaching to talk to His mom and siblings?
5. Who did Jesus point to and call His mother and brothers?
6. Is Jesus teaching us that we should cut off our families for the sake of the church? Why would that be a misunderstanding of His teaching?
7. What are the implications of Jesus's teaching for how we relate to other Christians in our congregation?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. How would I go about explaining the fundamental fallacy of expressive individualism?
2. How does my biological family shape my identity and my lifestyle? How does my spiritual family shape the same? Which has priority, practically speaking?
3. Do I seek out, sacrifice for, savor, submit to, and stick it out with my local church family? Which one of these five do I most struggle with and most need to grow in?