

Rev. T. Jefferson Rogers Jr.
Text: Matthew 12:46-50
Title: The Family of Jesus Christ!

Intro:

The charge of the Pharisees that Jesus was in league with Satan was not believed by the disciples of Jesus but was likely believed by some of His friends and family. Jesus' family thought He was beside Himself. Mark 3:21 says, ***“And when his friends heard it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.”*** The word “beside” means delirious and deranged. Jesus' friends and family believed He was deranged and delirious because He broke off from His occupations, abandoned His common employment, spent much time in the deserts, denied Himself common comforts of life, and set up His claims to be Messiah. Jesus made claims that He was greater than John the Baptist, King David, Jonah, and King Solomon.

Backdrop: Jesus is in a house surrounded by a crowd teaching. While Jesus and His disciples were in the house teaching the crowd, His mother and brothers were standing outside wanting to speak with Him. Notice, Jesus' mother, and brothers were outside. They were on the outside in a physical sense. They were also outside in a spiritual sense. At that time, they were not followers of Christ.

- I. The Request of Jesus' Physical Family:** Jesus' mother and half-brothers wanted to speak with Him. Their request to speak with Jesus seems reasonable. However, the intrusive nature of the request is seen in the word “behold.” “Behold” suggest that they interrupted His teaching.

They expected Jesus to drop everything and honor their interference. Mary and His brothers were interfering with His work. They thought their business was more urgent than His business with the people.

Jesus refused to cease doing the business of the kingdom to heed the request of His mother and brothers. Jesus' business was to preach the kingdom. His preaching was central to Jesus as servant of the Lord. Jesus' mission is revealed in Isaiah 61:1. Isaiah 61:1 says, ***“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God to comfort all that mourn.”***

- II. The Response of Jesus:** Jesus used their visit to teach about kingdom relationship. Jesus asked ***who are My mother and brothers. Then Jesus stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, Behold my mother and my brethren*** (vv. 48, 49). Jesus was not disrespecting physical family relationships. On the contrary, He was manifesting love and respect for His heavenly Father. In chapter 15, Jesus condemned the religious leaders for not obeying the fifth commandment about honoring your father and mother (Exodus 20:12a). Also, Jesus' last request from the cross was for John to take care of His mother (John 19:26-27).

- A. Jesus was teaching that being a member of His physical family does not guarantee spiritual family ties. A person is not saved through lineage. Physical kinship does not mean spiritual relationship and fellowship. Jesus' family was related to Him physically but not spiritually at the time. The sad truth is that, despite their exposure to His word and works, neither did His brothers believe in Him (John 7:5).

Jesus said in Mark 6:4, ***"A prophet is not without honor, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house."***

- B. Jesus was also teaching that the ties of flesh and blood will not take priority over the spiritual ties of the kingdom itself.

Jesus said in Luke 14:26, ***"If anyone comes to me and hates not father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, cannot be My disciple"*** (NKJV).

In essence, Jesus was saying we must be willing to put Him first in our lives and that at times it may appear that we hate our family. Jesus is not teaching that we are to literally hate our family, but to love Him more.

Jesus was not putting down the importance of family. He was putting family ties in its place. The kingdom of God is an extremely high and exalted place. When Jesus pointed at His disciples and said, ***"Behold My mother and brothers,"*** He was making it known that His spiritual family is more precious, more closer in kinship, and more intimately related to Him than His own flesh and blood. No matter how close and tightknit an earthly family is, spiritual family in Jesus is closer. Proverbs 18:24 says, ***"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."*** Jesus is the friend who sticks closer than a brother.

III. The Requirement to Be In The Spiritual Family of Jesus: Verse 50 says, ***"For whosoever shall do the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother."***

The word "whosoever" means anyone who believes, repents, and becomes His disciple will be included in His spiritual family. Verse 50 does not tell us how to be a part of the family, but rather, who is a part of the family.

Relationship to Christ does not depend on fleshly kinship but on obedience to God's will.

John said in John 1:12,13, ***"As many as received Him, to them gave He the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."***

The real spiritual family of Jesus include all who follow Him.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:21, ***"No every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven."***

What is the will of God?

1 Thessalonians 4:3-12 says, “³*It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The LORD will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit. ⁹Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, ¹¹and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹²so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.*”

Romans 12:2 says, “*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will.*”