

Matthew 12:46-50

Jesus' Family

Behold! ...

I. Jesus' Earthly Kin

- A. Flesh & Blood
- B. Blessings & Limitations
- C. A Respectful Diversion

II. Jesus' True Family

- A. An Amazing Truth
- B. A Matter of the Will
- C. And Truly a Matter of Grace

III. Union Through His Blood

- A. The Spirit of Adoption
- B. Sons & Daughters of God
- C. Children of the Day

... what manner of love!

Children, Listen ...

1. Who came to visit Jesus?
2. What did Jesus say about those who do His will?
3. What must we do to become children of God?
4. Will true children of God want to do what God tells them to do?

With all Due Respect

We should never take Jesus' statement regarding his mother Mary and his half brothers and sisters as disrespectful. As a sinless man Jesus would have honored His mother with perfection and loved his siblings flawlessly. They were his blood kin, and he is not denying that special relationship. It is with all due respect to his family that he directs the people's attention to a far more important kind of family relationship. It is one that everyone should be intensely interested in as it concerns the fatherhood of God and filial union with the only begotten Son Himself. Jesus gestures to the disciples that are following Him and states that they, the ones who are doing His will, are his true family members. What does it mean to do the Father's will? In simplest form it is to believe and follow. All who trust in Jesus can make the remarkable claim that they are, by grace, truly children of the Father, based on the merits of the Son and brought into His family by the Spirit of adoption. Such marvelous grace is displayed in the life of faith: *This is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.* 1 John 3:23-4. With all due respect it is not our bloodline that saves us, but the blood of Jesus. None of us could enter the family of God without His saving grace which calls us to submit our wills to His and to walk according to His Word.