

**Matthew 12:46-50:** While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. <sup>47</sup> Someone told him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, asking to speak to you." <sup>48</sup> But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" <sup>49</sup> And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

**Intro:** Last Lord's Day, we saw Jesus refuse to give the hard, evil-hearted scribes & Pharisees another sign because no sign would be good enough for them, & they were merely trying to test Jesus. Jesus told them of how He is greater than Jonah & greater than Solomon, & He warned them of the danger of mere moralism: outward moral behavior without a true, living, vital relationship with God. We must be born again, trust Christ, repent of sin, know God, & live for Him. This is how we know we are in Jesus' family!

The Bible is full of illustrations of those who are, as Graeme Goldsworthy puts it, God's people (family), in God's place, under God's rule.

- Those inside the Garden of Eden and those outside of Eden.
- Those inside Noah's ark and those outside.
- Those brought into the promised land and those kicked out of the promised land.
- Those whose names are written in the Lambs book of life, and those who are not.
- Those who are in Christ Jesus by faith and those who are not. (This is why church membership is so important!)

In our text today the focus is on who is truly related to Jesus? Who is a part of Jesus' family?

Are you blood related to Jesus? Does your life show forth evidence that you are in fact blood related to Jesus?

### **1. Jesus Had A Biological Mother**

**Matt. 12:46:** While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother & his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him.

**a. Jesus had a mother: Luke 1:26-27, 34-35:** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary . . . <sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy - the Son of God."

**b. Jesus was and is a man:** Jesus had a human body; Jesus ate, drank, slept, went to the bathroom, etc.:

**1 Timothy 2:5:** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus

**c. Mary needed a Savior: Luke 1:46-47:** And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior . . . .

### **2. Jesus Had Biological Brothers**

**Matt. 12:47:** Someone told him, "Your mother & your brothers are standing outside, asking to speak to you."

**Matthew 13:55-56:** Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? & are not his brothers James & Joseph & Simon & Judas? <sup>56</sup> & are not all his sisters with us?

**Article:** Some Roman Catholics claim that these "brothers" were actually Jesus' cousins. However, in each instance, the specific Greek word for "brother" is used. While the word can refer to other relatives, its normal & literal meaning is a physical brother. There was a Greek word for "cousin," & it was not used. Further, if they were Jesus' cousins, why would they so often be described as being with Mary, Jesus' mother? There is nothing in the context of His mother & brothers coming to see Him that even hints that they were anyone other than His literal, blood-related, half-brothers. A second Roman Catholic argument is that Jesus' brothers & sisters were the children

of Joseph from a previous marriage. An entire theory of Joseph's being significantly older than Mary, having been previously married, having multiple children, & then being widowed before marrying Mary is invented without any biblical basis. The problem with this is that the Bible does not even hint that Joseph was married or had children before he married Mary. If Joseph had at least six children before he married Mary, why are they not mentioned in Joseph & Mary's trip to Bethlehem or their trip to Egypt or their trip back to Nazareth? There is no biblical reason to believe that these siblings are anything other than the actual children of Joseph & Mary. Those who oppose the idea that Jesus had half-brothers & half-sisters do so, not from a reading of Scripture, but from a preconceived concept of the perpetual virginity of Mary, which is itself clearly unbiblical: "But he (Joseph) had no union with her (Mary) until she gave birth to a son. And he gave Him the name Jesus" (Matt 1:25). Jesus had half-siblings, half-brothers & half-sisters, who were the children of Joseph & Mary. That is the clear & unambiguous teaching of God's Word.

### **3. Jesus' Disciples Are Also His Mother And Brothers, But In A Deeper, More Profound Way**

**Matthew 12:48-49:** But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?"

<sup>49</sup> And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!"

**a. Jesus asks a question: V. 48:** Who is my mother, and who are my brothers? Jesus is saying: "You think biological blood relations are close? You think the person who gave birth to me is close to me, merely because she gave me birth? You think those born to the same father and mother as I are closely connected because of this biological tie? No, there's something deeper, something closer, something more important, something that takes first place over biological blood relations!"

**Ligon Duncan:** Jesus uses every circumstance, every event in life as an opportunity for spiritual reflection.

**b. Jesus' disciples are His closest, most important relatives: V. 49:** And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!"

**1) This is a shocking answer:** Children lived close to their parents – not all spread out like we are.

**Imagine Mary saying:** "Young man, do you know who I am! I am the mother of the Son of God!" or the brothers: "I grew up in the same house with Jesus! We ate together everyday!" (**Like: I grew up in the church!**)

**Jesus said shocking things about the family: Matt. 8:22:** Follow me, & leave the dead to bury their own dead.  
- **Matt. 10:35-37:** For I have come to set a man against his father, & a daughter against her mother, & a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. & a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, & whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

**2) We see Jesus redefining the people/family of God:** The nature of the new Israel is different than the old Israel: Most are biologically born into old Israel; All must be spiritually born again into the new Israel: **John 1:12-13:** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Most turned away from God in the old Israel; All those born again into the new Israel will follow God in Spirit-filled obedience: **Ezekiel 36:26-27:** And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

**J. V. Fesko:** What is the nature of Israel reconstituted: "this is what Israel is supposed to be, this is how you define Israel, not by blood descent, but rather by those who do the will of My Father. That, He says, is My family!"

#### **4. Whoever Does The Will Of Jesus' Father Is The Brother, Sister, And Mother Of Jesus**

**Matthew 12:50:** For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.

**a. Christ & His work enable us to do the will of God:** Trusting in Jesus, His blood sacrifice on that cross, & His resurrection is the only way to be a part of His family! Jesus shed His blood to save us from our sins, our failure to do the will of God, so that we could be gathered into His family & begin to do the will of God for His glory!

Do you realize that you have failed to do the will of God. **GOSPEL!**

**b. What does it mean to do the will of God?** It means you trust and obey God! You follow His commandments!

- **1 John 3:23:** And 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.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:3-5:** For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup> not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God . . .

- **1 Thessalonians 5:18:** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- **1 Peter 2:15-17:** For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

**c. Jesus again points us to Himself: Daniel Doriani:** Those who do the Father's will are the members of Jesus' family. But where do we find the Father's will? In the teaching of Jesus. And much of that teaching points us to Jesus himself and to faith in him.

**d. How then do we relate to our biological families?** Biological family is important: love, honor, & obey them!

**1) Only by loving God first and foremost can we ever love our families the way God intended: Luke 14:26:** If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

**Adoniram Judson:** I have now to ask whether you can consent to part with your daughter early next spring, to see her no more in this world? Whether you can consent to her departure to a heathen land, and her subjection to the hardships and sufferings of a missionary life? Whether you can consent to her exposure to the dangers of the ocean; to the fatal influence of the southern climate of India; to every kind of [need] and distress; to degradation, insult, persecution, and perhaps a violent death? Can you consent to all this, for the sake of Him who left His heavenly home and died for her and for you; for the sake of perishing, immortal souls; for the sake of Zion and the glory of God? Can you consent to all this, in hope of soon meeting your daughter in the world of glory, with a crown of righteousness brightened by the acclamations of praise which shall redound to her Saviour from heathens saved, through her means, from eternal woe and despair?

**2) You are not a slave to the bad experiences of your biological family!**

**e. The Church is the most important human family in the universe:** "Blood is thicker than water"? Jesus' blood is thicker than any human blood!

**1) The Church takes priority over your biological family:** Many Muslims who turn to Christ have to make this decision (On the same day she came to faith in Christ, 28-year-old Hawa Amoti was violently killed by her father for leaving Islam.)

Not your biological family, but the church is what Jesus said He would build and the gates of hell will not prevail against it!

Not your biological family, but the church is what Jesus gave the keys of kingdom to to bind and loose!

Not your biological family, but the church is where elders and deacons are appointed to lead and serve!

Not your biological family, but the church is what new believers are added to as they are saved!

Not your biological family, but the church is what God purchased with His own blood!

Not your biological family, but the church is where God has given spiritual gifts to build up the body!

Not your biological family, but the church is the very body of Christ and His fullness!

**Ephesians 1:22-23:** And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (**Dr. Baugh:** The church, filled by Christ, fills all creation as representatives of Christ.)

Not your biological family, but the church displays the manifold wisdom of God to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Not your biological family, but the church is the pillar and buttress of the truth!

Not your biological family, but the church is where you are not to forsake the assembly but keep meeting together!

Not your biological family, but the church is the body of Christ: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?!"

Not your biological family, but the church is God's redemptive arm in the world!

Not your biological family, but the church is the Bride of Christ that He is making pure and coming back for!

**Alexander Strauch:** The most frequent metaphor the Holy Spirit used for the church is the family. The church met in homes, shared material possessions, ate together, greeted one another with a holy kiss, showed hospitality, cared for widows, and disciplined their members when they fell into unrepentant sin.

**2) The Church is made up of people from every ethnicity: Revelation 5:9:** And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation

**3) The Church is your family if you need one: Matthew 19:29:** And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. (**Daniel Doriani:** Singles (never married, widows, divorced) are more than 1/3 of all Americans.)

- **Brian Davis:** Found out recently he had a 42 year old brother he didn't know about. That's hard. As Christians we are always finding out about new saints.

- **Brian Davis:** Lady that doesn't eat meat. Is chicken broth OK? She said I'm happy to fast to be with the saints.

**4) You are greatly loved in this family: Devotional Book:** There are actually two ways that someone can become part of a family. One way is to be born into a family, and the other is to be adopted into a family. Either way, you are just as much a part of your family whether you born or adopted into it. Do you know how we become part of God's family? The Bible tells us that when it comes to God's family, we are born ("born again") AND adopted into it. [**Romans 8:15:** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"]. In this way, God's family is unlike any other. It's as if God wants our relationship to his family to be twice as strong as our regular family.

### **5. Jesus Is Our Great And Amazing Elder Brother!**

**Romans 8:29:** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

**a. Let's boast in our elder brother:** Like children who boast about what their daddies, brothers, friends do: NFL; President of the United States; King of England!!!!

**Hebrews 2:11-12:** For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."

**J. C. Ryle:** How much there is in this single expression! What a rich mine of consolation it opens to all true believers! Who can conceive the depth of our Lord's love towards Mary the mother that bore Him, and on whose bosom He had been nursed? Who can imagine the breadth of His love towards His brethren according to the flesh, with whom the tender years of his childhood had been spent? Doubtless no heart ever had within it such deep well-springs of affection as the heart of Christ. Yet even He says, of all who "do the will of God," that each "is his brother, and sister, and mother." Let all true Christians drink comfort out of these words. Let them know that there is One at least, who knows them, loves them, cares for them, and reckons them as His own family. Though they be poor in this world - they have no cause to be ashamed, when they remember that they are the brethren and sisters of the Son of God. Though they be persecuted and ill-treated in their own homes because of their religion - they may remember the words of David, and apply them to their own case, "When my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up." (Psalm. 27:10.)

**Charles Quarles:** Jesus's love for his disciples is like the love of all family relationships combined.

### **Jesus Is Our Brother Like No Other!**

Unlike the first brother Cain who slaughtered his own flesh & blood in an evil rage, our Brother gave His own flesh & blood for us & was slaughtered by the righteous rage of His Father on that cross so that we might be saved!

He is His brother's keeper, and He keeps us more kept in love, righteousness, safety, joy, happiness, and satisfaction than the best keepers have ever kept anything that can be kept in all the keepable universe!

That's my brother-keeping Brother Who always keeps it all! Do you know Him?!

- Sarah lied along with Abraham and told the king that he was her brother, but we are free to tell the truth about our big Brother Jesus! He is our true brother Who is more our Brother than anyone else ever could be, and He's the only One Who can and will protect us from all the evil of all the kings everywhere on the earth!

- Jacob deceived his father Isaac and selfishly tricked his brother Esau out of his birthright and blessing. But our Brother Jesus selflessly gave up all His blessings on that cross so that we could inherit the world and enjoy fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore with Him in paradise!

- When Jacob and Esau were reconciled, Jacob was accepted by Esau, and he said that seeing his brother's face was like seeing the face of God. When we trust in our Brother Jesus, He accepts us in Himself, no matter what we've done, and we get to gaze upon His face – the very face of God – for all eternity!

- Oh there is no face like His face! Our Brother has the face of faces! He's the Creator of all the beautiful faces you've ever seen and all their beauty combined cannot compare with His! If you looked upon His face with mere unglorified human eyes, your head might explode because it could not handle the witness of such breathtaking glory, grandeur, greatness, and majesty! That's my Brother!

- Joseph's wicked brothers planned to kill him, stripped him of his coat, threw him into a pit, and sold him into slavery. But Joseph forgave them all and saved their lives, even though they were unbelievably hateful toward him. Jesus is our greater Brother Joseph, Who was killed, stripped naked, suffered in the unimaginable pit of God's anger on that cross, and rose up from the grave so that, though we and the Jews and the Gentiles and Herod and Pontius Pilate and all of us meant the cross for evil, God meant it all for the everlasting good of whosoever would repent and believe in Him!

- Moses claimed he couldn't speak well, so God gave him his brother Aaron to speak on his behalf. We have an elder Brother Who speaks on our behalf – an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, Who speaks mercy, grace, and forgiveness into our lives so that we might be saved!

- He's the Big Warrior Brother Who comes to our aid when our enemies are too strong for us!

- He our greatest friend Who loves at all times; was born to overcome our greatest adversity and bring us into the Kingdom of His beloved Father; and He's the true Friend from heaven Who always sticks closer than a brother!

- He sanctifies us by His precious blood and He's not ashamed to call us brothers, saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." That's my Brother!

Jesus was forsaken by His family so that you might never be alone (Highlight His mercy to His faithless disciples!); He was forsaken so that you would never be homesick; He was cast out so that you may be gathered into the most loving, glorious family in all the universe – the family of God in the church!

**Sinclair Ferguson:** Jesus bore the weight of an eternal homesickness on the cross, for the sake of the gospel.

**Romans 8:28-32:** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Christ Jesus Is Our True Kindred Brother Relation  
If You Do Father's Will Without Hesitation  
Mothers, Sisters, Brothers From Every Nation  
You Are To Him Who Bought Us Salvation  
He Did His Father's Will For The Whole Duration  
Unlike Us Who Have Sinned And Deserve Full Damnation  
He Never Sinned, Conquered Every Temptation  
Died On That Cross As Our Propitiation  
Rose From The Dead For Our Justification  
By Faith Alone There's No Condemnation  
In Him We Are God's, An All New Creation  
Filled With His Spirit We Obey With Elation  
For He Is Our All, Our Preoccupation  
He's Family And Friend, Our Sanctification  
Come To Him Now And Find Transformation!