

Following Jesus
22, True Family
Matthew 12:46-50

I. Message

a. **The setting - v.46**

- i. "46 While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him."
- ii. Jesus was busy healing the infirmed and teaching the crowds
- iii. His family came to speak with him
 1. Maybe they were concerned for His health
 2. Maybe they were there as an intervention (concern mentally)
 3. Maybe they were concerned for His safety (started saying hard things, making the leaders pretty angry, , to rescue from arrest)
 4. Maybe they were concerned for *their* safety

b. **The subject - v.48**

- i. "48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?"
- ii. Jesus uses his family's arrival to teach on a very important topic: True Family
- iii. So, He asks 2 very interesting questions:
 1. Who is my mother and who are my brethren?
 2. But the answer He is after is not obvious
- iv. Everyone knew His "family"
 1. **Matthew 13:55-57**
 2. Jesus had at least 4 brothers and some sisters
 3. These were His half-siblings
 4. The children of Joseph and Mary
 - a. Mary was probably a true believer already
 - b. But His brothers did not yet believe
 - i. **John 7:5 "For neither did his brethren believe in him."**
 - ii. They would become some of the authors of the NT
 - iii. They would become church leaders
 - iv. They would believe, after the resurrection
 1. But for now, they were JUST His half-siblings
 2. They were not His TRUE FAMILY

c. **The surprising statement - v.49-50**

- i. "49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his **disciples**, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! 50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

ii. Jesus defines His TRUE family in two ways in this passage: (disciples and doers, want to think on these 2 words for a few minutes)

1. Disciples (v.49)

a. The word means “followers”

- i. Here are **some** of Jesus’ descriptions of discipleship (He would be a good one to ask, right?):
- ii. Loving Jesus most – **Matthew 10:37**
- iii. Prioritizing Jesus’s values – **Mark 8:34-35**
- iv. Following Jesus’ teachings – **John 8:31**
- v. Bearing Jesus’ fruit – **John 15:8**
- vi. Loving Jesus’ family – **John 13:35**
 1. It isn’t these things that save us
 2. Repenting and believing in Jesus bring salvation
 3. But true believers are also followers, disciples

2. Doers of God’s will (v.50)

a. What is God’s will? (very simplified, to bring Him glory)

- i. Gratitude – **1 Thessalonians 5:18**
- ii. Purity – **1 Thessalonians 4:3**
- iii. Repentance – **2 Peter 3:9**
- iv. Christ-likeness – **Romans 8:28-29**
- v. The big one: To hear and accept the message of Jesus – **Matthew 17:5 “While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”**
- vi. Really, what Jesus had just finished saying (last week’s message, here’s your sign)
 1. **Repent** from your sin (like Nineveh)
 2. **Believing** Jesus (because of the resurrection)
 3. **Seeking** Jesus face and will (like the queen)
 4. Jesus’s true family are those that do His will

3. Doers of God’s Word (Luke 8:21) (Jesus’ Word)

- a. **(Slide #24) Luke 8:21 “And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.”**
 - i. This is where we closed last week
 - ii. And this is the point of the account in Luke
- b. (building on rock) **Luke 6:47-48**
- c. (pay attention to the mirror) **James 1:25**

II. Conclusions

- a. Your spiritual relationship with your family is even more important than your physical relationship with them
 - i. Some of you have experienced unfortunate separation from your family
 1. Jesus did too! They rejected Him and His message
 2. Be comforted: This group (the church) can be closer to you than your blood relatives every were (who is your family? Us)
 - ii. But there is a challenge here for those whose families are still strong
 1. Particularly for moms and dads raising children:
 2. Don't primarily seek to become their friend
 3. Seek to raise brothers and sisters in Christ!
 - a. Your blood family CAN be your TRUE family
 - b. But your blood family is only your TRUE family if they too are in Christ!
- b. You don't need a blood relationship to be related with others in Christ
 - i. The larger the church, the harder this is
 - ii. We are one family in Christ
 1. **Philippians 1:8**
 2. **1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, 11**
 3. If Jesus needed true family, you do too!
 - a. And you have one
 - b. In the family of God!
- c. Your commitment to God's will and Word are foundational to your relationship with Jesus
 - i. God's primary will for you is to believe on His Son Jesus
 - ii. **John 6:40 "And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day"**
 1. And this offer is available to ANYONE!
 2. **"50 For whosoever..."**
 - a. Your pedigree does not matter to Jesus!
 - b. Anyone can be His disciple
 - c. Anyone can yield their will to His
 - d. And be in the family of God
 - iii. Will you?
 1. Repent from your sin
 2. Trust Jesus