

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
Pinecrest Baptist Church  
a.m.

Sermon Series: Striving With the Maker: The Ruin of Resistance  
Sermon #11 Title: The Family of God  
Sermon #11 Text: (Matthew 12:46-50)

“While he yet talked to the people, behold, *his* mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. 47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. 48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, **Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?** 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.”**

\*Note – The entirety of this moment is to illustrate the necessity for being in the Family of God!

Every attack, and every judgment that the Pharisees, and those who fought Jesus each step of the way, they did so on the field of religious rules. Jesus did not acknowledge their religious rules. Jesus always acknowledge and followed the Law of God, but that was not then, and is not now the same thing as Rules, and practices of Man.

- Lost man cannot see anything but the very letter of the law. (of which will not fail – not one jot, not one tittle.)

- But the man who is only interested in the “letter of the law,” yet cannot see, will not see, or refuse to admit the Spirit behind the letter of that law, is a man

who really does have no interest in “knowing God”; his only real interest is trying to stay out of trouble.

- There is no merit, and there is no grace, and there is no power for the one who merely wants no hell in the end, no Christ in the now, and nothing of God’s Will in my life.

- One of the great contrasts that will shine as different as black versus white, is the difference between those who have a life and death interest in the “rules” of God; yet have no desire whatsoever for the “Will of God.”

- That will stand out in this passage today.

Coming to the end of the chapter, the LORD had just peeled back the veil between this life and the unseen world.

~He had addressed the future condemnation of those who blasphemed the Holy Spirit of God.

~He had exposed the present condition of those in league with the fallen angels.

We come to verse 46, and there something going on here we aren’t let in on.

“While He yet talked to the people.” - For some divine reason, we are not told, or included in the know of the things He had yet to say.

- (This is just an insight into the fact that those who lived in the days that the LORD walked this earth got to hear things we can only wish we heard.)

While He was yet speaking, someone interrupted Him and said, “your family is just on the outside of the crowd here, and they would like to come in here as well.”

- It was that interruption that Jesus used to teach the world the difference between the religion of the Old Testament, and the relationship necessary for real life; and even in the face of all hostility He teaches this crowd, Friend and Foe alike about the Doctrine of Family of God.

Who it is Not; Who It Is; and How to be in It!

#### I. The Mistaken Family of God – (46-48) “of the flesh”

“While he yet talked to the people, behold, *his* mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. 47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. 48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, **Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?**”

**A. The Question Jesus Asked – “Who is my mother, and who are my brethren?”**

\*Note – Why on earth would Jesus ask that question. – He had grown up there... He had worked in Joseph’s carpenter shop. More pointedly, it is not likely that Mary and her sons did not introduce themselves to the crowd when they showed up; they were apparently easily recognized... the point being that nearly everyone in that region by this time had some knowledge both of Jesus and His family.

- He wasn’t asking because He didn’t know; He asked this question to a people that were ready to learn something they should have already suspected.

1.) Note the identity of Jesus throughout chapter 12, which covers all the events and crowds that have led to this moment.

a.) vs 6 – “**In this place is one greater than the temple.**” (referring to Himself)

b.) vs 8 – “**For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.**”

c.) vs 28 – “**...if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.**”

d.) vs 41 – “**...greater than Jonas is here.**”

e.) vs 42 – “**greater than Solomon is here.**”

The question Jesus asked did not come from a vacuum; it came as a test on whether or not all had been hearing what He had been saying.

- “Exactly Who is the Mother of God? Exactly Who is the Brethren of the Son of God?”

- Christ has been teaching, revealing, explaining, illustrating to this crowd that though He was the earthly son of Mary, and half-brother to the rest of her sons; He was far MORE than that?

- It was one way of Jesus saying it is time to stop seeing Him only as a man from Galilee.

Christ is all man as if He were not God at All – that’s a man with a natural mother, and half-brothers.

Christ is all God as if He were not Man at All – Who has no Natural Mother, and who has No Natural Brothers....

After hearing all that Jesus said, and watching all that Jesus did, He asked yet again – “Exactly who did you say was looking for Me?”

(Everyone there with enough knowledge of who Jesus was at that time, should have known enough to know that Jesus was pointing them to something they needed to see... He is far more than a Man.)

### ***B. The Confusion They Didn't Know They Had.***

\*Note -Have you ever come to the realization that you had been so confident in so much that wasn't true. There is hardly anything more unsettling than finding out you really had no idea.

- You can be amazed at what you learn if you just listen...

- A man checking into a hotel, noticed a dog there by the counter. He asked the hotel clerk, does your dog bite? The clerk said of course not. The man reached down to pet the dog, and the dog nearly took a finger off. The man looked back at the hotel clerk and said, “I thought you're dog didn't bite!” – The clerk responded, “he doesn't! – that's not my dog.”

**1.) Confusion Stuck in Familiarity** – When we bring in the gospel of Mark, who also writes about this day, we find out that His earthly family and friends were there to “lay hold of Him” and remove Him from the circumstances, because they had yet to see Jesus for Who He really is.

a.) Mark 3:21 – “**And when His friends heard of it, they went to lay hold on**

**Him: for they said, He is beside Himself.”**

The reason is as we learned in our Sunday School lessons last week that old reality “Familiarity breeds contempt.” “Familiarity also Blinds the Mind.”

They had yet to see Jesus as anything more than a special friend, or unique brother, or good man who may have a small degree of mental non-conformity.

Now all of that being said, there is one more thing about those who were Mistaken about the Family of God.

### **2.) Confidence Stuck in Falsehood** -

1.) James, and Jude, were “brothers of Jesus” by birth – but at this point they were not in the Family of God.

- James and Jude, authors of two books in the New Testament, had the same earthly mother Jesus had in Mary. – Grew up in the same house. Most likely worked the same business and carpentry shop. Ate at the same table, and shared some blood DNA. – but at this point They were Not in the Family of God.

James and Jude were not saved, until after the resurrection of our LORD.

- Here's the point – They were blood related to Jesus as a man; but had no part in Jesus' as the Son of God.

Never get the idea that the family of God is everyone who shows up to eat, or sits at the table, or functions with the rest of the family.

- There is no familyhood of God by osmosis
- There is no familyhood of God by natural birth
- There is no familyhood of God by association

The reality is that they were inside the circle, but OUTSIDE the family, and they did not know it.

What is even more important here, is this. It was not THEY who decided who is in Jesus family, it is HIM!

- It is the Lord Jesus alone, who identifies His Family!

II. The Manifest Family of God – (vs 49) – “And He stretched forth His hand toward His disciples, and said, **Behold my mother and my brethren!**”

**A. The Visible Family He Claimed** – “**Behold, my mother and my brethren.**”

- 1.) stretching forth His hand, and instructing people to behold, was merely Jesus saying, “I will show you the family you can see!”
- 2.) His “Disciples”
  - a.) Generically – Learners.
  - b.) Intrinsically here – “Saved Learners.”

\*Note – As the LORD points to Disciples as His Family, when the rest of the Bible is brought in, He is speaking as though these disciples have been saved!

(\*Note – One does not become a member of the Family of God through being a Learner, or a Student. Ultimately one can only really become a Student, or a Learner, through

being In the Family of God, through faith; through actual trust; not merely mental agreement.)

Implicit here is the expectation that those who have come to Christ for salvation will live for Christ as Learners, and will in turn manifest the Family of God for all to see.

John 13:35 – “**By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**”

\*Note – Notice this. One would think, since a disciple is a “learner” then Jesus would have said, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye are studying all I’ve taught; and gaining knowledge of all that I have said.”

- But that’s not what He said:

- A Disciple of Jesus is one who is Changed by the Lord’s Word, and the ultimate CHANGE that takes place is that you will LOVE Other Disciples, and it the implication is like a family.

People see you are Learning of me, when you are Loving of Each Other

The family of God is made visible when those who are Born again with Jesus on the inside; let Him live them out on the Outside.

**B. The Kinship of Family He Claimed** – “my mother and my brethren.”

1.) He never refers anyone, either in His natural relations, or His Spiritual family as “Father.”

- a.) There is no Joseph in this entire scenario.

\*Note – Reality is that after the episode of Jesus in the Temple at 12 years old, we never hear of Joseph again. (It is almost universally assumed, that Joseph had died before the LORD's adulthood.)

2.) But in the Spiritual Relationship, He uses the terms "brother, sister, mother."

a.) One writer from yesteryear tells us that Jesus is identifying the terms of endearment that we have in our families, not necessarily positions we maintain.

In other words the Bond within the Family is as Dear as He has for His mother; is as Dear as He has for brothers, or sisters. These are terms that identify bonds of fellowship; bonds of relationship, within the family of God.

Now that being said, we see "The Mistaken Family of God" – it is not through family heritage, or earthly birth. We have seen the Manifest Family of God – that which is intended to be Visible for all to see.

- People are to be able to See that You are Learning from Jesus, when you loving Other Disciples the way Jesus has raised us to.

Finally we see the Material Family of God. – Those who Actually are in the Family of God.

III. The Material Family of God – (vs 50) (actual) – **"For whosoever shall do the will of My Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."**

Who then is in, or can be in the Family of God?

**A. Whosoever Will – "For whosoever"**

1.) There is probably in that setting no more important of a word than that word "whosoever."

- a.) Not Just Jews (like the Pharisees taught) but any race of human beings.
- b.) Not just Anyone BUT the Jews; yet even the very Pharisees that had been fighting Him for the last few days – they too could get in.

(That's a good Word to Remember!

Whosoever covers the widest range of categories any human being can imagine. Even successful people can be saved. Even unsuccessful people can be saved. Even immoral people can be saved. Even people with the golden touch can be saved; and even people who are professional failures, can be saved, and brought into the Family of God.)

**B. Whosoever will Do the Will – "will do the Will of my Father which is in heaven..."**

\*note -Now take a breath. Don't get the idea here that Jesus is teaching that men are saved by getting it right. You would do well to ask the question; -"What then is the Will of His Father which is in heaven?" – Don't you think that's the best response to that statement?

Here's the answer –

1.) 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."**

It is the Will of God for men to “Believe on the Lord Jesus” that they may have everlasting life; and it is at the moment of faith that you are born into the family of God. – Because

- You are “Doing the Will of God” when “you trust Jesus to save you.”

- To believe on the Lord Jesus is not the mental agreement that He lived and died and rose again.

- To believe on the Lord Jesus is for you to Trust Him to do all the Saving.

(That’s why we say all the time. – If Jesus doesn’t save me; then I won’t be saved! – He’s my only plan.)

Conclusion: - Now here is the summation.

- The Pharisees had a bead in the “Law of God” – Yet Jesus spoke in terms of “The Will of God.”

- There are many people in the same boat.

- I’ve kept the rules – and life still stinks.

- I go to church, I read my Bible, I sing the songs, I give an offering, I say my prayers...

- (The rules are helpless to provide you power)

- It is not the “LAW of God” that is the SAME for every single individual; like a universal plan. – It is the WILL OF God that Begins the Same for every individual with Salvation; and THEN becomes personal from now on, as He is to spend the rest of your life His way and not yours.

- You do not have to keep fighting the LORD Jesus; and you cannot afford to win, if you do.