

Holy Nepotism

Psalm 22:1-31; Matthew 12:46-50 / John 6:25-40

I. Jesus Had an Earthly Family

A. Mary and His brothers wanted Jesus' attention. While he yet talked to the people, behold, *his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.* (MATTHEW 12:46)

B. Local people knew the family. Is not this the carpenter, *the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us?* And they were offended at him. (MARK 6:3)

C. The family and the disciples were distinct groups. After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and *his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples:* and they continued there not many days. (JOHN 2:12)

D. The brothers were prominent in their own right. But *other of the apostles* saw I none, *save James the Lord's brother.* (GALATIANS 1:19)

II. What Is the Place of That Family?

A. Jesus did not treat His family as Mohamad did or as the great rabbis do, incorporating them into the administration of His work. Then one said unto him, Behold, *thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.* (MATTHEW 12:47)

B. Jesus had bordered on being humanly discourteous with His mother at the wedding in Cana when Mary overstepped her authority. Jesus saith unto her, *Woman*, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. (JOHN 2:4) [*goo-nay* rather than *may'-tare*]

C. Jesus had always been an attractive child. And *Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.* (LUKE 2:52)

D. At the same time, even as a child, Jesus had understood his unique ministry and His uniqueness. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that *I must be about my Father's business?* (LUKE 2:49) *along with I delight to do thy will*, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart. (PSALM 40:8)

E. Jesus forced the implied question. But he answered and said unto him that told him, *Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?* (MATTHEW 12:48)

III. The Faithful Are the True Family of God

A. Jesus identified His family. And *he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!* (MATTHEW 12:49)

B. The identifying family trait is doing the will of God. For *whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.* (MATTHEW 12:50)

C. For Christ is a function rather than a status. Wherefore *by their fruits ye shall know them.* Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; *but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.* (MATTHEW 7:20-21)

D. The Father in Heaven confirmed Jesus and His doctrine. 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.*** (MATTHEW 17:5)

E. Jesus specifically rejected the CULT OF THE MOTHER. And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, ***Blessed is the womb that bare thee,*** and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, ***blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.*** (LUKE 11:27-28)

F. In all Christian relationships look for faithfulness as a fundamental element. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. (JOHN 15:14)

G. Jesus teaches the same doctrine of relationship to God which has characterized the Scriptures from the start; every variation is false. For Moses truly said unto the fathers, ***A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.*** (ACTS 3:22-23)

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