"ARE YOU RELATED TO JESUS?"

Matthew 12:46-50
2/11/2018

INTRODUCTION: Verses 46-47

***Are you related to Jesus Christ?**

I. **FAMILY TIES CANNOT Produce a Relationship with Christ**
("Who is My mother? And who are My brethren?") (v. 48)

II. **Only A SPECIFIC REMNANT are Related to Christ**
(*"He stretched forth His hand toward His disciples")* (v. 49)

III. **People from ALL OVER THE WORLD can be Related to Christ**
("Whosoever shall do the will of My Father") (v. 50)

IV. **DOING GOD'S WILL is Evidence that You are Related to Christ**
("Whosoever shall do the will of My Father. . . the same is My brother, and sister, and mother") (v. 50)

Belonging to the family of God is a matter of prime importance!
"Ye must be born again!"
(John 3:7)

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V. 46
"His mother" =Mary; the woman God used to implant His Son into, so that Jesus could become man so as to die for men.

"The Son of God became the son of man, so that we the sons of men might become the sons of God."

Mary is Jesus mother <u>not</u> in the sense that she gave Him His origin or beginning, but she provided His entrance into the human race.

She should not properly be called "the mother of God" as if to imply that she as a deity brought God the Son into existence.

It is vitally important to note that Mary was a human being, a woman of virtue, but a sinner nonetheless who needed God to be her Savior (Lk. 1:47) and needed the Son she bore to atone for her sins on Calvary's cross.

Jesus in terms of His real essence (His Spirit) did not originate in the womb of Mary, but rather He came from Heaven and via the virgin birth made an incarnate entrance into the human race.

Jesus came from Heaven! (Jn. 6:51; Phil. 2:7; II Cor. 8:9; Gal. 4:4; I Cor. 15:47)
I Tim. 1:15 - *"Christ Jesus came into the world. . . "*

"And His brethren" - Jesus half-brothers. Contrary to RCC tradition, Mary did not remain a perpetual virgin, but she had other children via her marriage to Joseph, after the birth of Christ.

The Bible teaches that Joseph and Mary did not have sexual relations <u>until</u> after she had brought forth Jesus (Mt. 1:25).

Matthew 13:55 gives a list of the half-brothers of Jesus. NOTE: Christ also had stepsisters. "Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us?"
Mark 6:3 - *"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."*

"Stood without" - The reason they could not reach Jesus was because of the great crowd that thronged around Him (Lk. 8:19). A *"multitude sat about Him"* (Mk. 3:32).

"Desiring to speak with Him" - Whatever it was that they wanted to say to Him, to them at least it was very important. They were so zealously seeking to talk to Him, that they had evidently sent someone up front to get the message to Jesus.

Perhaps a problem had occurred at home that they needed His advice about; or more likely, they had heard about the commotion Jesus caused because of His stern condemnation of the Pharisees (Note previous context in chapter 12), and they thought to quiet Him down a bit.

This idea is backed up by Mark's account (same context and time frame) - See Mark 3:19b-21 -

"An home" = could be His own home in Nazareth.

"His friends" = his relatives; His family; lit. the ones who [grew up] alongside of him. His own family thought that "he was out of his mind" or that "he had lost his senses."

The crowd was so tightly packed into the home that it was impossible for anyone to eat (v. 20). To Jesus, doing the will of the Father was more important than food (Jn. 4:34).

V. 47

"Then one said to Him" - cp. v. 46

"While He yet talked to the people" - Interruptions tend to come at the most importune times.

Even good people with good intentions can disrupt a counselling session, a witness opportunity, a sermon (EX: people getting up during a service), etc.

Jesus "loved and cared for His family, and He understood their concern, misguided as it was. He did not, in fact, respond directly to the request of his family but rather used the occasion to teach an important truth" (MacArthur, p. 339).

***Are you related to Jesus Christ?**

I. <u>FAMILY TIES CANNOT</u> Produce a Relationship with Christ
("Who is My mother? And who are My brethren?") (v. 48)

"Who is my mother?" - This question does not deny the fact that Mary gave birth to Him. What it declares is that: Mary does not have any greater relationship to Him than anyone else who is saved. (All believers who do God's will have just as great a relationship as Mary had and has).

This question does not minimize Mary, but it sure does show what her place is.

If Mary had some exalted position as co-redeemer or mediator for Christ, this would have been the greatest setting for Christ to prove such as point. But He doesn't exalt her. he doesn't elevate her above any other believer.

These two questions are another way of saying: "Who is related to Me?" "Who makes up my family?" "Who comprises my relatives?"

SEE: John 1:12-13

As far as their spiritual relationship to Him is concerned, His brothers were not His "brothers" at this time. His brothers did not believe in Him during His public ministry (Jn. 7:5), but did after His resurrection.

II. Only <u>A SPECIFIC REMNANT</u> are Related to Christ
(*"He stretched forth His hand toward <u>His disciples</u>")* (v. 49)

With His fingers pointing directly at His disciples, Jesus is implying that not everyone is related to Him. The Bible does NOT teach universalism (that everyone will be saved). In fact, Scripture teaches that only a small portion of humanity will be saved.

As Paul said: "Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a <u>remnant</u> shall be saved" (Romans 9:27; cp. Isaiah 10:22)

"Even so then at this present time also there is a <u>remnant</u> according to the election of grace. (Romans 11:5)

Jesus said the same, when He said: “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)

"Toward His disciples" - this included more than the 12; it included *"them which sat about him"* (Mk. 3:34).

Anyone who followed Christ was considered a "disciple" (in the unofficial sense of the term).

"Disciples" - a disciple is a disciplined one. One who is taught the disciplines of the Master is considered a disciple.

"Behold" - look at, see, view

As Jesus drew attention to some female followers of His, He said, "Look at my mother." As His finger pointed around the room and fell upon some men who followed Him, He said, "Look at my brother."

III. People from ALL OVER THE WORLD can be Related to Christ
("Whosoever shall do the will of My Father") (v. 50)

"Whosoever" - anyone and everyone.

The "whosoevers" of the Bible are a great encouragement:

> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Jn. 3:16
>
> For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Rom. 10:13
>
> And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Rev. 22:17

"The whosoever indicates the universality of the invitation. No one who believes is excluded. And, on the other hand, no one who does not believe will be included" (MacArthur, p. 339).

IV. DOING GOD'S WILL is Evidence that You are Related to Christ
("Whosoever shall do the will of My Father. . . the same is My brother, and sister, and mother") (v. 50)

"Shall do" - to practice; to accomplish. It's not enough to hear God's will; you must do God's will.

It is not enough to know God's will; you must do God's will (Mt. 7:21). True belief in God's will will result in changed behavior ("works" - James 2).

Those who do God's will give evidence by their doing that they have received God's salvation.

The Christian life is not a noun, but a verb! It is practical, not theoretical. it is active, not stationary. It is moving, not stagnant.

"Will" - desire; God's specific wishes, plans, goals for your life.

The only way to know God's will is to know God's Word (Ro. 10:17).

"My Father" - this phrase points to Christ's unique relationship with God. It points to His deity (Jn. 5:18 - *"Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his father, making himself equal with God."*).

"In Heaven" - God is in Heaven, but He expects His will to be done on earth.

"Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven" (Mt. 6:10; Lk. 11:2).

"The same" - lit. this one (implied - this one and no other)

"Is my brother" - Jesus does not say "becomes".

The doing of God's will does not make someone related to Christ (as if salvation was accomplished by "doing" something); rather, the doing of God's will reveals whether or not someone is related to Him.

What exactly did Jesus mean by the *"will of my Father"*?

Luke in a parallel passage gives the answer: *"My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it"* (Lk. 8:21).

God's will for you is:

1) SALVATION (God wants you to be saved)

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."*

I Tim. 2:4 - *"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth"*

II Pet. 3:9 - *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

Mt. 18:14 - *"Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."*

2) SPIRIT-FULLNESS (God wants you to be Spirit-filled)

Eph. 5:17-18 - *"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."*

3) SERVICE (God wants you to serve Him sincerely)

Eph. 6:6 - *"Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."*

Heb. 13:20-21 - *"Now the God of peace. . . make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."*

4) SACRIFICE (God wants you to surrender your life to Him)

II Cor. 8:5 - *"And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."*

Rom. 12:1-2 - *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service, And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

5) SANCTIFICATION (God wants you to be sexually pure)

I Thess. 4:3 - *"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication."*

6) SUPPLICATION (God wants you to seek Him daily)

I Thess. 5:16-18 - *"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In ever thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

7) SUBMISSION (God wants you to submit to authority)

I Pet. 2:13-15 - *Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:*

8) SUFFERING (God wants you to be willing to suffer for His sake)

I Peter 3:17 - *For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.* (Compare I Peter 4:12-19)

If you are related to Jesus, you will be hearing the Word of God and obeying it!

Perfectly? No. But Consistently.

The bottom line: Are we doing what we want in life? Or what God wants?

Are we doing our will? Or God's will?

To do our will and to live for what we want is indeed Satanic Theology.
(the maxim of Satanism according to the Satanic Bible by Anton Lavey: "Do as thou wilt"

Do what you want. This is the world's life and agenda.

But if we are truly related to Christ, we have the Holy Spirit and a new heart. We now desire to do God's will.

Examine your heart. Do you live for what you want or what God wants? Do you need to be "born again"?

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