



The True Brothers of Jesus

Matthew 12:46-50

A surrendered believer longs for a closer relationship to Christ. In the human realm we often think of a close relationship in terms of the loving bond we have with mother, father, brothers and sisters. While

some are at odds with their nearest of kin, it's wonderful to see the close, loving relationships that often exist between family members.

The Lord Jesus had an earthly family, and it is of great interest to hear Him speak about them: "Then came to Him His mother and His brethren, and could not come at Him for the press [crowd]. And it was told Him by certain which said, Thy mother and Thy brethren stand without desiring to see Thee. And He answered and said unto them, **My mother and My brethren [brothers] are those which hear the Word of God, and do it**" (*Luke 8:19-21*).

Obedience to God's Word is the key to having a close relationship to the Saviour. In the parallel passage found in Matthew 12:50 we read, **"For whosoever shall do the will of My Father which is in heaven, the same is My brother, and sister, and mother."**

Doing God's will and obeying God's Word are equivalent concepts. It is in His Word that God reveals His will [what He wants].

In another fascinating passage a certain woman said to Jesus, "Blessed is the womb that bare Thee, and the paps [breasts] which Thou has sucked" (*Luke 11:27*). The wrongful exaltation of Mary is not something new. This woman considered Mary to be so special because she gave birth to Jesus and nursed Him in her arms. The Lord had to correct her thinking, **"Yea, rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it"** (*Luke 11:28*).

Dear believer in Christ, how is your relationship to the Word of God and the will of God?

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org



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