

The True Family of Christ

Luke 8:19–21

Luke 8:19–21 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. ²⁰ And it was told Him by some, who said, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You.” ²¹ But He answered and said to them, “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”

I. Introduction

- A. One of the greatest bonds in the family is that of a mother and her children. There is a deep connection between a mother and her children which cannot be fully explained.
- B. The world in which we live (particularly here in the USA) is slowly eroding the nuclear family. The world wishes to redefine the family. Yet the family is instituted by God and is a picture of a spiritual reality: *the family which God has made for Himself*.
- C. Just as a person will act in accord with his family and upbringing, so do the members of Christ’s family act in the way His family acts.
- D. The text we have before us is recorded in two other places: Matthew 12:4–50 and Mark 3:31–35.

II. Exposition

A. Context

1. Parable of the Soils (8:4–8)
2. Parable of the Soils explained (8:9–15)
3. Allusion to Isaiah 6:9–10 in v. 10
 - a) There would be those who were blind and stay in their blind state
 - b) There would be others who hear and embrace the Word of the Lord

B. Jesus’ mother and brothers wish to speak with Him (v. 19–20)

C. Jesus takes this as a teaching moment to instruct those around Him about His spiritual family (v. 21)

III. Marks of Christ’s True Family

A. Hear

1. Formula: “He who has ears to hear, let him hear”
 - a) Spiritual blindness / hard-heartedness (spiritual bondage)
 - b) We need Christ to open our minds and hearts
2. What does it mean to *hear*?
 - a) Physical Action — I hear the words you are speaking
 - b) Spiritual Apprehension — I recognize the spiritual impact/truth of your words
 - c) Welcoming Disposition — I see and wholeheartedly embrace your words

B. Do

1. We embrace and obey the words of the Lord
2. We must not be “hearers only” (James 1:22–25)
3. “A faith that works”
 - a) Not justification by works
 - b) Those who welcome the teachings of Jesus will *do* the teachings of Jesus
4. The gospel will be adorned by our obedience
 - a) People see the power of the gospel in a changed life
 - b) The terror of those who do but do not hear (cf. Matt. 7:21–23)
 - c) The joy of those who both hear and do (cf. Matt. 7:24–27)
5. The family of Jesus is adopted (cf. Rom. 8:14–17)

IV. Conclusion: This, then, is the teaching of Jesus concerning His spiritual family. Those in the family of Christ *hear* and *do* His will and words.