

Matthew 12:46-50 The Special Love that Jesus has for Those Who Do the Father's Will

Introduction: The scribes and Pharisees have already displayed a bitter and vicious attitude toward Jesus. Jesus has already predicted that they would become more wicked than ever. And they did. This text shows the special love of Jesus toward the saved who are doing the will and the work of God the Father.

- I. The ministry of Jesus to the people, Verse 46.
 - A. The Greek word “people” means a great crowd or multitude.
 - B. Jesus was busy healing, teaching the saved and preaching the gospel to the unsaved.
 - C. He was engaged in the work which God the Father had assigned.

- II. The arrival of Mary and the brothers of Jesus, Verse 46.
 - A. Mary, the mother of Jesus, arrived from Nazareth.
 - B. Joseph was not with her; it is believed that he died before the ministry began.
 - C. The brothers of Jesus therefore accompanied her for her safety and well being.
(Real brothers, the sons of Mary.)

- III. The purpose of her visit.
 - A. The visit must have been partly just to spend a little time with one she loved.
 - B. It must have also been partly out of concern for His health and well being endangered by a very heavy work load, Mark 3:20. (He was too busy to eat.)
 - C. She must have also been concerned about His repeated clashes with the scribes and Pharisees. (She wanted to warn Him not to openly clash with the religious leaders; He might get hurt.)

- IV. The difficulty in trying to see Him, Verse 47.
 - A. She arrived at a bad time.
 1. The crowd was pressed in so tight around Jesus that Mary and the brothers could not get to Him, Luke 8:19.
 2. They sent word to Jesus about their presence.
 - B. Jesus loved His mother and His brothers, but He could not just dismiss the crowd and visit with them. (That would be like someone bringing the preacher a note in the middle of His sermon saying, “Your mother is here and wants to see you.”)
 - C. Jesus would see and visit with them after the service was over and the crowd had gone home.

- V. The opportunity to teach a lesson to the crowd, Verses 48-49.
 - A. Jesus asked “Who is my mother? and who are my brothers?” verse 48
 - B. Then He pointed to His disciples as the answer to the question, verse 49.
 - C. Jesus loved His earthly family, but He also had a spiritual family whom He loved even more.
 1. He could not love these more if they had been His fleshly brothers.
 2. He could not love these women more if they had been His sisters.
 3. He could not love these elderly women more if they had been his mother.
 - D. Jesus loved all of the people and was willing to die for them. (Even the Pharisees.)
 - E. But these who had believed the gospel and were living godly lives and were engaged in doing God's work were the special objects of His love.

VI. The lesson for us today

- A. Who does Jesus love today? (He loves everybody in all the world and He died on the cross that all might be saved.)
- B. But whom does He love like they were His mothers and sisters and brothers?
 - 1. He loves those who are saved by His grace and who are doing the will of God the heavenly Father.
 - 2. These are the ones who teach His word, witness to the unsaved, support His work financially, carry on missions, etc.
 - 3. Jesus could not love them more if they were His own flesh and blood.
- C. These get the benefits of His influence with God the Father.
(The benefits of His riches, power, position.)

Conclusion:

- 1. If you are not saved, Jesus already loves you, but the way for you to get the benefits of His special love is to be saved.
- 2. If you are saved you can increase His love for you even more by being dedicated to doing the will and work of God in your life.

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