

(26) Mother, Brothers Seek Audience (Mt. 12:46-50; Mk. 3:31-35; Lk. 8:19-21)

1. This episode features the first glimpse of Jesus' human mother since the Lord relocated her and her other children to Capernaum just after the Cana wedding (Jn. 2:12).
2. It is not known what Mary and her children wanted, and it is not important to this episode.
  - a. They "wished to see" Him (Lk. 8:20).
  - b. They "wished to speak" with Him (Matt. 12:47).
  - c. They were unable to get inside because of the crowded conditions (Lk. 8:19).
  - d. They sent and called (Mk. 3:31). Inside, it was reported to Him (Lk. 8:20).
3. Jesus had four brothers and plural sisters (Matt. 13:55-56; Mk. 6:3).
  - a. Mary was only kept virgin until the birth of Jesus (Matt. 1:25).
  - b. Jesus was her "firstborn" son (Lk. 2:7).
  - c. These brothers were not even saved until after the resurrection (Jn. 7:5; Acts 1:14), but became Apostles during the Dispensation of the Church (Matt. 28:10; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 9:5).
  - d. James, Ἰάκωβος, יַעֲקֹב. James = Jacob by virtue of the Latin dialectal variants Jacobus/Jacomus. (Norman French was Gemmes).
    - 1) A pillar in Jerusalem (Gal. 2:9; Acts 12:17; 15:13-21).
    - 2) Called as an Apostle (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 9:5; 15:7; Gal. 1:19).
    - 3) Author of the Book of James.
  - e. Joseph, Ἰωσήφ, יוֹסֵף. Named for his father, nothing else is known of him. Could he be the Joseph called Barsabbas (also called Justus) (Acts 1:23)?
  - f. Judas, Ἰούδας, יְהוּדָה. Author of the Book of Jude.
  - g. Simon, Σίμων, שִׁמְעוֹן. Nothing is known of him.
  - h. Descendants of these brethren were referred to as Desposyni in the early Church (Hegesippus c.110-180; Eusebius H.E. 3.20). Two grandsons of Jude were brought before Emperor Domitian.
4. Jesus used the circumstances of His earthly family's arrival to teach the principle of our heavenly family.
  - a. Whoever does the will of God (Mk. 3:33) the Father (Matt. 12:50) by hearing the Word and applying it (Lk. 8:21) is a part of our heavenly family.
  - b. This can only apply to believers (Jn. 6:29).
  - c. This is not limited to any particular dispensation (Heb. 2:11).
    - 1) Jesus delivered this message during the Dispensation of Israel: Age of the Incarnation.
    - 2) This principle will be important in the Dispensation of Israel: Age of Tribulation (Matt. 25:40).
    - 3) This principle is taught in the Dispensation of the Church where our heavenly family relationship is a royal family (Acts 1:15-16; 1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 5:1-2; 1<sup>st</sup> Pet. 2:9).
5. The vital doctrine of heavenly family relationship is an encouragement for both time and eternity (Mk. 10:29-31).