Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas
October 25, 2026 – Sent by the King: The Family of the King

Main Passage: Matthew 12:46–50

Main Idea:

God brings us into His family by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and His children begin to resemble their Father.

1) Being Near Jesus Doesn't Mean You Belong to Jesus *(vv. 46–47)*

Supporting Scriptures: *Matthew 12:38–45*

- Jesus' mother and brothers stand outside while He teaches. Physical nearness and family connections do not establish spiritual belonging.
- The Pharisees heard Jesus teach and witnessed His works. Knowing the Scriptures should have pointed them to the Savior, yet they rejected Him.
- A Christian upbringing, church membership, baptism, Bible knowledge, and a good reputation cannot replace a saving relationship with Christ.
- You can spend your whole life around the things of God and never actually belong to God. Knowing about Jesus is not the same as knowing Him.

2) Jesus Brings Us into His Family *(vv. 48–49)*

Supporting Scriptures: *John 1:12; Romans 8:15–17*

- Jesus points to His disciples as His family. He is not rejecting His earthly family or dishonoring Mary; He is revealing a greater spiritual relationship.
- God's children receive Christ and believe in His name. Adoption is an act of God's grace, received through faith in Jesus Christ; we do nothing to earn it.
- The Spirit of adoption enables us to call God Father. Believers are His children and coheirs with Christ, sharing in His suffering and future glory.
- The church is more than a weekly event or an organization. God has brought us into His family, where other believers are our brothers and sisters.

3) The Family of God Has a Family Resemblance *(v. 50)*

Supporting Scriptures: *John 14:15*

- Jesus identifies His family by their desire to do the Father's will. Obedience is not the cause of our relationship with God; it is the evidence of it.
- A changed heart does not mean sinless perfection. When we sin, we are convicted and want to repent, obey, and reflect our Father's character.
- Family resemblance appears in our attitude toward sin, our response to Scripture, our priorities, our service, and the way we treat other people.
- "You are a Sibley; therefore, you should act like it." We do not obey to earn a place in God's family; we obey because He has already made us His children.

Takeaways

- Religious proximity cannot replace a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Family history and church activity cannot save us.
- Adoption is God's gracious gift through faith in Christ. We do not earn our place in His family by accepting the gift or by behaving well.
- God has not simply rescued us from something; He has brought us into something—His family, with a Father, brothers and sisters, and an inheritance.
- Belonging to Christ does not promise an easy life. His children share in His suffering and look forward to sharing in His glory.
- Obedience grows out of a changed heart. God's children increasingly reflect their Father in their choices, relationships, and response to sin.

Questions for Reflection

1. Do I truly belong to Jesus and the family of God, or have I only been close to the things of God?
2. What am I relying on for my salvation—Jesus Christ alone, or my family history, church membership, baptism, reputation, or religious activity?
3. Has my life been genuinely transformed by Christ, or have I only cleaned up the outside while remaining unchanged within?
4. If I am a child of God, is there a growing family resemblance in my life—a desire to do the will of my Father?
5. What area of my life right now does not look like my Father, and what do I need to surrender to Him today?

Bottom Line

You don't become part of God's family because of your name, your background, or your good behavior. God brings you into His family by grace through faith in Jesus Christ—and His children begin to resemble their Father.

For Further Study:

- **Galatians 4:4–7:** Christ redeems us for adoption; His Spirit assures us that we are children and heirs.
- **Ephesians 2:8–10:** Salvation is God's gift, received through faith; good works are its fruit, not its price.
- **1 John 3:1–3:** The Father's love gives us our identity; hope in Christ moves His children toward purity.
- **Reading:** Trillia Newbell, "Adopted Children of God" (Ligonier Ministries). Consider how God's fatherhood shapes reverence, confession, and our response to His discipline.

  learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/adopted-children-god