



THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW



Doing the Father's Will

Matthew 12:43–50



Matthew 12:43–45

⁴³ “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. ⁴⁴ Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. ⁴⁵ Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation.”



Matthew 12:46–50

⁴⁶ While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. ⁴⁸ But he replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” ⁴⁹ And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”



1. Clean emptiness: the deceptive danger of moralism (12:43–45)

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1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.



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2 Timothy 3:5

...having the appearance of godliness,
but denying its power.



John 14:23

“If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”



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Galatians 6:8

For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.



...the sinner's evil condition rarely remains stable. If a person does not repent of sin, his sinfulness typically grows worse and worse until the sinner soon finds himself engaged in behavior that he would not have thought possible before.

— Chuck Quarles



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2 Peter 2:19–20

¹⁹ They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. ²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.



2 Peter 2:21–22

²¹ For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

²² What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”



2 Corinthians 7:10

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.



2. Loving obedience: the true family of Christ (12:46–50)

⁴⁶ While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. ⁴⁸ But he replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” ⁴⁹ And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”



John 7:5

For not even his brothers believed in him.



Matthew 13:55–56

⁵⁵ “Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”



Mark 3:20–21

²⁰ Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”



Luke 2:49

And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me?
Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”



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Jesus' natural family is not the family that matters.

— R. T. France



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Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”



Luke 8:1–3

¹ Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³ and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.



Matthew 21:28–31

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’
²⁹ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go.
³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.”



Matthew 21:31–32

³¹ ... Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.

³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”



We do not *make* ourselves Jesus' close relatives by doing the will of his heavenly Father. Rather, doing the Father's will *identifies* us as his mother and sisters and brothers.

— Don Carson



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