



SPIRITUAL FAMILY

MATTHEW 12:46-50

PART 4 - NATURAL OR SPIRITUAL FAMILY

The entanglement of natural family in our hearts will have our priorities, what we value and what we live for, all distorted. We will find ourselves valuing our natural family over God and the accomplishment of His will. The Father and Son are no respecter of physical bloodlines and physical relationships if they are held in a higher regard and a greater priority to the divine fellowship, spiritual oneness, we are to experience with them.

The Father is jealous for us to love Him with ALL we are and become His possession, period. We are not to have any other loves in our lives which we give greater honour, time and focus to.

If this is the case we will find ourselves valuing the building up of our natural family over the building up and being part of a spiritual family or body, whose purpose is to accomplish the will of the Father.

Our natural family will come first in our lives, as opposed to Him being first in our lives, where we are seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness and then leading our natural family into this reality. We will be empire builders of our own lives as opposed to allowing the kingdom to be built within us if this is the case.

The choices, the decisions, the priorities we make, where we spend our time and our resources, will be determined through this lens of physical family. Anything that requires us to sacrifice our physical family's wants or needs and put them secondary to His will, will be brushed aside and not even contemplated by us.

If Jesus lived like this, He wouldn't have been able to do the will of His Father. Even Jesus' own natural family thought He had lost His senses and were really struggling to understand who He was and the life He was living.

Mark 3:21 When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses..."

His brother, James, did not at first believe in Jesus and even challenged him and misunderstood His mission. This is one of the reasons why Jesus tells us that if we love our father, mother, child, wife, husband, our own lives etc, more than Him, then we are not worthy of Him. Jesus knows if this is the case, then the life He has for us will be in jeopardy because we will not be prepared to make the decisions we need to make to see His will being done over our own.

God gives us these scriptures in Matthew and Luke as a measuring stick so we are able to compare our lives by His standard of measure, when it comes to who we are to have at the epi-centre of our hearts.



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Matthew 10:34-39 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man’s enemies will be the members of his household. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

Luke 14:25-27 Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

As I have already mentioned, Jesus knows the cost involved in following Him; He knows if we love other people, no matter who they are, and things more than Him, this will affect our ability to follow Him and accomplish His will for us as His church.

QUESTIONS

1. Who has centre stage in your heart - God or you?
2. What does it look like to have God at the centre of our lives as opposed to us?
3. Why does the one who has centre stage of our hearts define what family will be?
4. Family can become an idol in our lives. Why is this the case?
5. What is the difference between a co-dependent family and a Christ centred family?
6. Why must we wrestle with God in love for the reality of His version of family?