



Lesson 25 – Who Are My Brethren?

Based on Matthew 12:20-50; Mark 3:20-35

- 1) While Jesus was correcting the Pharisees one day after healing someone, what event happened?

Matthew 12:46-47 While he yet talked to the people, behold, his _____ and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy _____ stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

- 2) How did Jesus reply?

Matthew 12:48-50 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his _____, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my _____ which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

- 3) What false charge did the Pharisees place against Jesus?

Matthew 9:34 But the Pharisees said, He casteth out _____ through the prince of the devils.

Jesus' brothers heard of the charge brought by the Pharisees that He cast out devils through the power of Satan. They felt keenly the reproach that came upon them through their relation to Jesus. They knew what a tumult His words and works created, and were not only alarmed at His bold statements, but indignant at His denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees. They decided that He must be persuaded or constrained to cease this manner of labor, and they induced Mary to unite with them, thinking that through His love for her they might prevail upon Him to be more prudent.

- 4) How did Jesus feel about the faith of Israel?

Matthew 9:35-36 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the _____ of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they _____, and were _____ abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

The Pharisees did not themselves believe the charges they brought against Him. There was not one of those dignitaries but had felt drawn toward the Saviour. They had heard the Spirit's voice in their own hearts declaring Him to be the Anointed of Israel, and urging them to confess themselves His disciples. In the light of His presence they had realized their unholiness, and had longed for a righteousness which they could not create. But after their rejection of Him it would be too humiliating to receive Him as the Messiah.

- 5) What is the unpardonable sin?

Mark 3:28-29 Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be _____ unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the _____ hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:



It is not God that blinds the eyes of men or hardens their hearts. He sends them light to correct their errors, and to lead them in safe paths; it is by the rejection of this light that the eyes are blinded and the heart hardened. Often the process is gradual, and almost imperceptible. Light comes to the soul through God's word, through His servants, or by the direct agency of His Spirit; but when one ray of light is disregarded, there is a partial numbing of the spiritual perceptions, and the second revealing of light is less clearly discerned. So the darkness increases, until it is night in the soul.

6) Where do our words come from?

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his _____ bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil _____ of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Words are more than an indication of character; they have power to react on the character.

7) Who will be judged by their words?

Matthew 12:36-37 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall _____, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy _____ thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

8) What is the danger in the Christian walk?

Matthew 12:43-45 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will _____ into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is _____ than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan. But unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one.

9) What was the last part of the previous verse?

Matthew 12:45 ...and the last state of that man is _____ than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy.

10) Who are the family of God?

Matthew 12:48-50 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his _____, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my _____, and _____, and _____.



All who would receive Christ by faith are united to Him by a tie closer than that of human kinship. They become one with Him, as He was one with the Father. As a believer and doer of His words, His mother was more nearly and savingly related to Him than through her natural relationship.

11) How are we to come to Christ?

Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the _____ of heaven.

Those who accept Christ as their personal Saviour are not left as orphans, to bear the trials of life alone. He receives them as members of the heavenly family; He bids them call His Father their Father. They are His "little ones," dear to the heart of God, bound to Him by the most tender and abiding ties.

12) What lesson from the Old Testament shows the ministry of Jesus?

Leviticus 25:25 If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to _____ it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.

Leviticus 25:47-49 And if a sojourner or stranger wax rich by thee, and thy brother that dwelleth by him wax poor, and sell himself unto the stranger or sojourner by thee, or to the stock of the stranger's family: After that he is sold he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him: Either his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or any that is nigh of kin unto him of his family may redeem him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself.

13) What message did Isaiah convey to us?

Isaiah 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have _____ thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

Christ loves the heavenly beings that surround His throne; but what shall account for the great love wherewith He has loved us? We cannot understand it, but we can know it true in our own experience. And if we do hold the relation of kinship to Him, with what tenderness should we regard those who are brethren and sisters of our Lord! Should we not be quick to recognize the claims of our divine relationship? Adopted into the family of God, should we not honor our Father and our kindred?

Can you see the Love from Jesus?

Would you like to be redeemed?

When is the time to love like Jesus did?

GREATER
LOVE
HAS NO ONE
THAN THIS
TO LAY DOWN
ONE'S LIFE
FOR
ONE'S FRIENDS
JOHN 15:13