

# TRUTH & RIGHT

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**WELLSBURG**  
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## MY MOTHER AND MY BRETHREN

In Matthew 12, our Lord stood before the people and taught them. As He was teaching, one said, *"Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. 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 disciples, 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 brother, and sister, and mother"* (Matt. 12:47-50). What was Jesus saying? Did He mean that He did not know His mother and brethren? No! He was, however, making a point that would be indelibly marked on the peoples' hearts from this day forward. What was He saying?

### **Spiritual Relationships Are More Important Than Earthly Relationships.**

Though Christ loved His earthly family, He knew their acceptance was not as important as the acceptance of God. Jesus taught on one occasion, *"I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me"* (Matt. 10:35-37). Though Christ's family wished to speak with Him, the people needed to know that earthly relationships paled in

comparison to being in the right relationship with God! So do we!

The apostle Paul understood this and though his family lineage and ancestry could give him reasons for boasting, he said, *"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ"* (Phil. 3:7-8). Earthly ties and relationships meant nothing to him if it meant losing his eternal home (Phil. 3:13-14). Do we consider our eternal home more important than anything else? Think about it!

### **Man's Obedience To Christ Means He Can Enjoy God's Blessings.**

The apostle Paul taught the Romans, *"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified*

*together"* (Rom. 8:16-17). How do we become children of God? By being born again (Jn. 3:3, 5)! This spiritual birth takes place after one has believed in Christ, repented of his sins, confessed Christ, and been baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:36-38). Jesus describes it as being *"born of water and the spirit"* (Jn. 3:5). It is also reflected in our Lord's death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4, 16-18). The book of Acts noted those who followed this plan (Acts 2, 8, 9, 22, 26, 10-11, 16, 18, 19). When we do as the Lord says, we become spiritual heirs of the promise (I Pet. 1:4). Christ promised *"where I am, there ye may be also"* (Jn. 14:1-3). How can we place anything before the Lord and His blessings? Thus, Christ taught in Matthew 12:48-50 that nothing should come before God!

### **Not Everyone Is In God's Family.**

When Jesus said certain ones were His *"brother, and sister, and mother,"* it was those who *"shall do the will of my Father."* What of those who do not do the will of the Father?

They have no relationship with Him! Jesus made it clear that *"not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven"* (Matt. 7:21).

Therefore, doing the will of the Father is required for going to Heaven and being called a brother or sister of Christ. This is why we do not call just anyone *"brother"* or *"sister"* in that spiritual sense. Though some may claim it, not everyone is Christ's brother and sister (II Jn. 9-11). Christ's *"brother"* and *"sister,"* those that will see Heaven, are those who faithfully live according to the will of the Father!

## Conclusion

Are you in the family of God? Can Christ call you *"brother"* or *"sister"*? If not, do not delay but become a Christian while you still can (Mk. 16:16)! - Jarrod Jacobs

"When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless,

woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.' This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, 'They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.' So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home," Jn. 19:23-37.

"Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity," 1 Tim. 5:1-2

"Greet Rufus, a choice man in the Lord, also his mother and mine." Rom. 16:13.

# People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



## *Purple Dye Discovered*

The color purple appears several times in the Bible, usually in a robe draping one of the kings of ancient Israel. But the search for an authentic artifact dyed the royal color from the time of King David has always proved elusive. That changed this week, after researchers from the Israel Antiquities Authority, Bar Ilan University and Tel Aviv University said they had identified pieces of fabric dyed “true purple” dating to the 10th century BCE, when the Hebrew Bible says David and Solomon ruled in Jerusalem. “This is the first piece of textile ever found from the time of David and Solomon that is dyed with the prestigious purple dye,” Naama Sukenik, curator of organic material at the Israel Antiquities Authority, said in a joint statement. The three scraps were among several discovered by archaeologists in recent years in the Timna Valley, the site of a vast ancient copper mining operation in southern Israel. Direct carbon dating revealed that the fabrics hark back to about 1000 BCE. Timna was likely part of the kingdom of Edom, bordering the kingdom of Israel to the South. The biblical Book of Samuel relates how David and his army battled and conquered the Edomites. The old and new testaments mention David, Solomon, and the priests of the Jewish Temple, as well as Jesus some centuries later, all wore purple garments, and according to ancient sources, purple textiles were highly valued and a symbol of nobility.

