

Matthew 12:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

Analysis

His mother and his brethren stood without (ἡ μήτηρ καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοὶ αὐτοῦ εἰστήκεισαν ἔξω, hē mētēr kai hoi adelphoi autou heistēkeisan exō)—Mary and Jesus's half-brothers (James, Joses, Simon, Judas—Matthew 13:55) arrived, standing 'outside' (ἔξω, exō). John 7:5 explicitly states 'his brethren did not believe in him' until after the resurrection.

Mark 3:21 provides crucial context: family members came to 'lay hold on him' because they thought 'he is beside himself' (mentally unstable). This wasn't a casual visit but an intervention attempt. Mary, though blessed among women, was not infallible; even she misunderstood Jesus's mission at times (cf. John 2:4).

Historical Context

During Jesus's intense Galilean ministry, his family grew concerned about his controversial teaching and confrontations with religious authorities. Their attempt to interrupt his teaching reveals that even biological proximity to Jesus doesn't guarantee understanding of his kingdom mission.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Mary's misunderstanding here challenge Roman Catholic doctrines of her perpetual perfection and co-redemptrix role?
2. When has family pressure or concern tried to pull you away from God's calling on your life?

Interlinear Text

"Ἐτι δὲ αὐτῷ λαλῆσαι τοῖς ὄχλοις οἶδον, ἡ μήτηρ
While yet he talked to the people behold G3588 his mother
G2089 G1161 G846 G2980 G3793 G2400 G3384

καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοὶ αὐτῷ εἰστήκεισαν ἔξω ζητοῦντες
and G3588 his brethren he stood without desiring
G2532 G80 G846 G2476 G1854 G2212

αὐτῷ λαλῆσαι
he talked
G846 G2980

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 13:55 (Parallel theme): Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

John 7:3 (Parallel theme): His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.

John 2:12 (Parallel theme): After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.

John 7:5 (Parallel theme): For neither did his brethren believe in him.

Acts 1:14 (Parallel theme): These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Mark 6:3 (Parallel theme): Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

Galatians 1:19 (Parallel theme): But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

1 Corinthians 9:5 (Parallel theme): Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?

John 7:10 (Parallel theme): But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.

Mark 2:21 (Parallel theme): No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse.