

# Matthew 12:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

## Analysis

**Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee** (ἢ μήτηρ σου καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοί σου ἔξω ἐστήκασιν ζητοῦντες σοι λαλῆσαι, hē mētēr sou kai hoi adelphoi sou exō hestēkasin zētountes soi lalēsai)—The verb *zēteō* (ζητέω, 'seeking/desiring') suggests persistent effort, not casual interest.

The messenger assumed biological family took precedence, but Jesus's response redefines family around spiritual kinship. Notably absent is 'Joseph,' confirming Joseph had died by this point in Jesus's ministry. The verse provides clear evidence against claims of Mary's perpetual virginity—adelphoi (ἀδελφοί) means 'brothers,' not cousins (which would be *anepsiroi*, ἀνεψιοί).

## Historical Context

In first-century Jewish culture, family obligations were paramount, and interrupting a teacher for family was expected and honorable. Jesus's response would have shocked his audience, signaling that kingdom priorities transcend even legitimate family claims.

## Related Passages

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus's redefinition of family challenge modern culture's tendency to make family the ultimate value?
2. What does this passage teach about the priority of spiritual relationships over biological ones when they conflict?

## Interlinear Text

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εἶπεν	δέ	τις	αὐτῷ	Ίδού,	ἡ	μήτηρ	σου	καὶ	οἱ
<b>said</b>	<b>Then</b>	<b>one</b>	<b>unto him</b>	<b>Behold</b>	G3588	<b>mother</b>	<b>thy</b>	<b>and</b>	G3588
G2036	G1161	G5100	G846	G2400		G3384	G4675	G2532	

ἀδελφοί	σου	εἴξω	έστήκασιν	ζητοῦντές	σοι	λαλῆσαι
<b>brethren</b>	<b>thy</b>	<b>without</b>	<b>stand</b>	<b>desiring</b>	<b>with thee</b>	<b>to speak</b>
G80	G4675	G1854	G2476	G2212	G4671	G2980

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