

Matthew 12:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said,
Behold my mother and my brethren!

Analysis

He stretched forth his hand toward his disciples (ἐκτείνας τὴν χεῖρα αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ, ekteinas tēn cheira autou epi tous mathētas autou)—The gesture is deliberate and dramatic: *ekteinō* (ἐκτείνω) means 'to stretch out fully,' the same verb used of Jesus stretching out his hands on the cross. This isn't casual pointing but an intentional, authoritative declaration.

Behold my mother and my brethren! (ἴδοὺ δέ μήτηρ μου καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοί μου, Idou hē mētēr mou kai hoi adelphoi mou)—Idou (ἴδού) is an attention-grabbing exclamation: 'Look!' or 'Behold!' Jesus identifies his *mathētai* (μαθηταί, 'disciples/learners') as his true family, establishing the church's relational foundation: shared devotion to Christ creates bonds deeper than blood.

Historical Context

This public declaration came at a crucial moment when religious authorities rejected Jesus. He reassures disciples that opposition, even from biological family, doesn't sever them from their true family—those united in following him. The early church would desperately need this truth when families fractured over faith (Matthew 10:34-37).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's gesture toward his disciples encourage you when faithfulness to Christ costs you family relationships?
2. Do you treat fellow disciples as true family, with the loyalty, sacrifice, and love that implies?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐκτείνας	τὴν	χεῖρα	αὐτοῦ	ἐπὶ	τοὺς	μαθητὰς		
And	he stretched forth	G3588	hand	G846	toward	G3588	disciples		
G2532	G1614		G5495		G1909		G3101		
αὐτοῦ	εἶπεν,	Ἰδού,	ἡ	μήτηρ	μου	καὶ	οἱ	ἀδελφοί	μου
G846	and said	Behold	G3588	mother	my	And	G3588	brethren	my
G2036	G2400		G2400	G3384	G3450	G2532		G80	G3450

Additional Cross-References

Mark 3:34 (Parallel theme): And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!
