

Matthew 12:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Analysis

Whosoever shall do the will of my Father (ὅστις ἂν ποιήσῃ τὸ θέλημα τοῦ πατρὸς μου, *hostis an poiēsē to thelēma tou patros mou*)—*Hostis* (ὅστις) is an inclusive relative pronoun: 'whoever, anyone who,' obliterating ethnic and social barriers. *Poieō* (ποιέω, 'to do') is present active subjunctive, emphasizing continual, characteristic action, not one-time obedience.

The same is my brother, and sister, and mother (οὗτός μου ἀδελφὸς καὶ ἀδελφὴ καὶ μήτηρ ἐστίν, *houtos mou adelphos kai adelphē kai mētēr estin*)—Jesus includes both genders and uses the intimate term 'mother,' signaling that spiritual kinship with him encompasses every dimension of family relationship. This verse is foundational for understanding the church as family (Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 5:1-2).

Historical Context

Jesus redefines covenant community from ethnic Israel to the universal church. This verse anticipates Pentecost (Acts 2) when Jews and Gentiles, slaves and free, men and women would be baptized into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13), with obedience to the Father as their unifying identity.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How would your church life change if you treated members as literal family—brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers?
2. Does your life demonstrate continual doing of the Father's will, or do you claim relationship with Jesus while living independently?

Interlinear Text

ὅστις γὰρ ἂν ποιήσῃ τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Πατρός μου
Whoever **for** ^{G302} **shall do** **the** **will** **of** **Father** **of Me**
G3748 G1063 G4160 G3588 G2307 G3588 G3962 G1473

τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς αὐτός μου ἀδελφός καὶ ἀδελφὴ καὶ
who is **in** **the heavens** **he** **My** **brother** **and** **sister** **and**
G3588 G1722 G3772 G846 G1473 G80 G2532 G79 G2532

μήτηρ ἐστίν
mother **is**
G3384 G1510

Additional Cross-References

Luke 8:21 (Parallel theme): And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.

Mark 3:35 (Parallel theme): For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

John 15:14 (Parallel theme): Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Matthew 28:10 (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

John 6:29 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Romans 8:29 (Parallel theme): For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

John 6:40 (Parallel theme): And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

1 John 2:17 (Parallel theme): And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Matthew 25:40 (Parallel theme): And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

1 Timothy 5:2 (Parallel theme): The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.