

***The Joy of Family***  
***Matthew 12:46-50***

Topic: The family

Aim: To show how to get into the family of God and what a great blessing it is to be in the family of God.

1. Ever notice how many of the most successful television shows are about family? Same is true of the great works of literature. Family is familiar to all of us.
2. I want to think with you this morning about the joys of family

I. Matthew 12:46-50

A. This passage tells us that Jesus grew up in a large family.

1. In Matthew 13:55 we learn Jesus had four brothers, and sisters.
2. What kind of home life do you think He had?
3. I rather suspect it was pretty much like any typical family then or now.

B. His life as a member of a family was probably filled with both sadness and joy.

1. Just like our families, because that is the nature of life.
2. How do you think Jesus and his brothers and His parents interacted?
3. There is nothing in the Bible to suggest that Jesus' home was anything but a normal, typical home of the day, Luke 2:51-52.
4. That tells me that Jesus can identify with the ups and downs of our own families today.

C. From that I think we can conclude that Jesus wants our families to find all the joy that God intended them to have.

1. Unfortunately, too many families today are wracked with pain and are void of joy.
2. God intended the family to be a place of joy and peace.

II. But notice how Jesus compares the ones who do His will to a family.

A. I have always found it interesting the Greeks had no word for family.

1. They used the idea of household or house.
2. Galatians 6:10, Ephesians 2:19, 1 Timothy 3:15.
3. Christians, the church, is/are the family of God.

B. How do we become a part of the family?

1. Born into it! John 3:3-5.
2. Titus 3:3-5.
3. Acts 2:38, Galatians 3:26-29.
4. Remember Jesus said those who are His family are those who do His Father's will.

III. Let me share with you four things about the family of God that give us cause for joy.

A. In God's family there is love and acceptance.

1. John 13:34-35.
2. Does this mean there are never any hurt feelings in God's family?
3. It means what is present in most earthly families is present in the family of God.
4. Once you become a part of God's family you are always a part.

B. But God the father, and Jesus our older brother never stop loving us.

1. Two pictures of God the father:
  - a. Matthew 7:11.
  - b. Luke 15:11-32.
2. God is a loving father.

C. You can always go home!

1. I remember "going home" as a child.
2. Someone said that "Home is where when you go there, they have to take you in."
3. God's family is like that. You can always go home.

D. There will be a great welcome home for God's family as we enter the eternal home.

1. We are strangers and sojourners here, 1 Peter 2: 11.
2. We are on our way home.

1. Are you a part of God's family?
2. Have you been born again?
3. Are you like the Prodigal?
4. God and His family will welcome you home.

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