

The Family of God (Luke 8:19~21)

Here in this passage, we read of an encounter, that Jesus had with his earthly family. Though the bible says very little about it, we are told that Jesus indeed had other siblings. At the time of this event took place, it is common opinion, that Joseph had probably been dead for many years, and Jesus' immediate family consisted of His **mother**, Mary, his **half brothers** (James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas), and His **half sisters**, who are not named (Matt. 13:55-56). According to historical documents, none of Jesus' siblings believed in him during the three and a half years he ministered. But we do know that after his resurrection, two of his brothers believed. James went on to be the pastor of the Church in Jerusalem, and wrote the epistle of James. Judas also became a believer, as well as Mary his mother... We must remember, that the event taking place here is early on in his ministry, and they could not understand what was taking place.

Here in this passage, Luke records that while he was teaching the multitudes that had gathered together, Luke tells us that his mother and brethren had come to see him. Upon hearing that his family was there, and wanted to see him, Jesus responds by saying... *"My mother and my brethren are **these which hear the word of God, and do it.**"*

By specifying *"these,"* no doubt Luke was referring to the *inner circle* mentioned in the first three verses of this passage that had accompanied him to this place. Speaking of the twelve disciples, along with several women, of which specifically names three, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna...

This is collaborated by Matthew's account, in that it says upon hearing his mother and brethren were there, Jesus responded by asking... *Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?* Then stretched forth his hands towards his disciples, and said... *"Behold my mother and my brethren!"* ⁵⁰ *Whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.*

In both accounts, the point is the same, Jesus clarifies, *"Who it is,"* that is of the family of God... *"Those who DO the will of my Father, which is in heaven..."* Though Luke's states it a little differently, *"these who hear the word of God and do it"...* the point is the same. The scriptures are the revealed WILL of God, thus to *"hear the word"* and *"do it,"* is to DO the will of the Father...

The *"emphasis"* here is on *"Obedience."* It's not enough to *"hear"* the *"word of word of God,"* it is the *"Doing"* that matters. *"My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it."*

To fully understand this statement, Jesus makes here, we must go back to the previous teaching of the candle, because it is in that context he is speaking. The arrival of his earthly family seems to be in perfect timing, as to illustrate the point he is making in that parable. We learn here, that even the closest of the associations with Jesus Christ, his family, had no privileges, they too had to come like everyone else, by obedience to God, by doing the will of the Father. *"My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it."*

Given that statement, it stands to reason, that those who *"hear"* and *"do not,"* are not the family of God, *right?* The perquisite to being part of the family of God, is *obedience...* *"My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it."* I cannot stress enough, this matter of obedience... As does our Lord and Savior. This is the second time in short order, that he has adamantly stressed obedience. Just prior to this, he told the parable of the two houses...

⁴⁷ *Whosoever cometh to me, and hears my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose,*

the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. ⁴⁹But he that hears, and **doeth not**, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Once again, the clear emphasis is “*obedience*.” The picture here is judgment...

Given that, it becomes extremely important what we do with teachings of this book... As we hear the teachings of this book, we become accountable to what we do with them.

That’s what he is saying in verse 18... ¹⁸***Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seems to have.***

In essence... “*Given what I just said, you need to be very careful how you “hear”*... Then He mentions the “*Two ways*” of hearing... “*with understanding*” or “*without understanding*.”

... ***for whosoever hath***...that speaks of *understanding*...

... ***and whosoever hath not***...is ***without*** *understanding*...

You either “*understand*” what you **hear**, or you “*don’t*”...

Using the King James language, you either “***hath understanding***” or you “***hath not understanding***”...

But there’s something we need to understand, about this understanding... This is not speaking of mere “*Intellectual understanding*” in the sense of simply “*Knowing*.” But rather, *the understanding* He’s referring to here, speaks of the “***manifestation of understanding***.”

This is the “*Understanding*” of the “*Parable of the Candle*”...

(Light one of the candles...leave the other unlit) **Understanding...No Understanding**

You could say, “*To those whose lives “reflect the truth” of what He is teaching, “showing” they understand what He’s saying*...to them, He shall be given more and more truth.

But to those whose lives “manifest” they don’t understand, by the fact their lives do not “reflect the truth” being taught...

...not only will they receive nothing, but even what they apparently have, will be taken away...

The “*lit candle*” reflects the one who understands...while the “*unlit candle*” the one without understanding.

(Vs 16) *When Jesus says...¹⁶No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covers it with a vessel, or puts it under a bed; but sets it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.*

As we all agreed last time together, to light a candle and then hide it under something, makes no sense. Here Jesus simply declares a very simple truth that no one would dispute, whether they are a believer or not. That being...“*NO MAN lights a candle and covers it up*...”

Does everyone agree, that what Jesus is saying here is truth? Is it a true statement, when he says, “*NO MAN lights a candle and covers it up*...”

Given that we all agree, and understand that to be a true statement, we are now able to “*understand*” and even deeper truth about the parable of the candle...

If a man possess truth, if he possess understanding...it will be *evident in his life!* The truth will be *“Reflected in his life.”* For no man, light’s a candle and then *“Hides”* it...

- (Point to *“lit”* candle) The fact he understands will be *“reflected”* in the life he lives...

- (Point to *“un-lit”* candle) Contrasted with *lack of light* in the one who does not understand...

Using the parable, if there is *“no light”* manifested in the man’s life, one thing you know for sure, is that he’s not hiding it...for no man lights a candle and the *“hides it.”* If there is no light being *“reflected”*, you can know he is yet in darkness...

And listen, to give you the *“full understanding”* of this passage, it’s imperative that we understand who this **unlit** candle is. To see this candle as those out here without any affiliation with the worship of God, would result in a gross miss-understanding of the teaching. The contrast here is between His disciples and the religious leaders of the day. The analogy of the candle was given to reveal who it was, that are the true people of God. *“My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.”*

The *“Unlit”* candle represents the religious leaders... By their strict adherence to the Law of God, and their affiliation with the Temple and the worship of God, the Scribes and Pharisees manifested a *“Certain righteousness.”* Outwardly speaking, they were good moral men, men who abided by the Laws of God, men who did not commit adultery on their wives, men who did not steal from others, basically upstanding moral men. But the problem with these men was, it was *“Superficial”*... in that it was *“External only,”* and not of the heart! It is the *“Obedience”* of the *“Inward man”* that God is concerned with...and not merely the *“outward.”*

To differentiate the two, Jesus offers up this parable of the candle... The simple point Jesus is making here is, you will be able to know who understands the gospel, (the message of the kingdom) and who does not, *by the way they live out their day to day lives!*

(Illustrate: Lit Candle) This one reflects the *“Doing of God’s Will”* and not *“His own!”* This man’s life *“Reflects the knowledge”* that all who *“live to their own will,”* will undergo the judgment and wrath of God! This man’s life *“Reflects that he understands”* that this world is the *“Kingdom of Satan”*, that he is the God of this world, manifested in that turns from it, wanting nothing to do with it... This man’s life *“Reflects he understands the gospel”* in that he no longer lives for this world, but sets his affections on things upon, where Christ sits on the right hand of the father! This man’s life *“Reflects he understands the gospel”* in that he sees Jesus Christ is the only hope for mankind...in that all who do not humble themselves before Him as Lord of their life, manifested by humble, submissive obedience to His will, and the seeking of His kingdom...

(Illustrate: Un-lit Candle) While, this other man, though *“Religious”*, his life *“Reflects that he **do NOT understand**”* these truths, in that he continues to “live to his will”... His life *“Reflects that he **does NOT understand**”* the gospel, in that he continues to live to this world, and the pleasures of this world. His life *“Reflects that he **does NOT understand**”* the gospel, in that he continues to live for the here and now... Though he professes to worship God, even Jesus Christ, by the way he lives his day to day, it reveals that this man doesn’t have a clue! Because if he did, he’d turn from this world, he’d no longer serve his own will and desires, he’d no longer live for the here and now, and yield *“his life”* in submission to Jesus Christ, out of love and appreciation for what He’s done for him!

It is this understanding, that helps us to understand what he says in verse 21...

... *“My mother and my brethren are **these which hear the word of God, and do it.**”*

Here Jesus uses *“his physical, earthly family”* to teach another principle of the *“Kingdom of God.”* As he was teaching these parables, his *“physical, earthly family”* came, wanting to talk to him. Upon hearing

they were there, he takes the opportunity to declare a “*Spiritual truth.*” It is not the “*earthly, physical*” that constitutes being part of his family, but the *spiritual*.

That is to say, it is not the “*External, outward acts of obedience*” that God is interested in... But rather the “*Inward, Spiritual obedience of the will of man, the heart of man...*” Men may attend church regularly, give in the offering plate, participate in Church activities...but none of that matters or benefits the man, if he does not live his day to day life unto Jesus as Lord. To leave here and go back tomorrow to living to your own will, seeking your things, the things of this world, living for the here and now...“*reflects that you do not truly understand the gospel*”.

And according to Christ, what you “Think” you have, even that will be taken away. In other words, you will have “*NO PART*” of the kingdom! You may “*dabble*” in it here on the earth, you may participate in it here in this life, but in the time to come, you will have “**NO PART**” of the kingdom.

Beloved, the kingdom of God is the “*Rule and Reign of Jesus Christ*” in the hearts of men and women... And according to this parable, if that is the case in a man’s life, it will be evident, by being “*reflected*” in his *day-to-day life*. And if it’s not reflected, you can know this, it’s not because he’s hiding the light...“*for NO MAN lights a candle and hides it under something...*” NO...if you can’t SEE it...it’s not there!

(Vs 18) ¹⁸**Take heed therefore how ye hear...** You better “*listen*” to what I’m telling you!

If you DO NOT truly REPENT...and follow Christ...you will die in your sins!

...“*My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.*”