

Questions for Gospel Harmony #43/#44

Matthew 12.46-50; Mark 3.31-35; Luke 8.19-21

1. Who told Jesus that his family was seeking him? How do we explain the differences between the accounts on this matter? Who did Jesus say is His “mother and brothers and sisters”? What does this saying mean?

Luke 11.37-54

1. Why did the Pharisee marvel at Jesus? What was the origin and nature of this custom? (Luke 11.37-38)
2. Explain the following statements (Luke 11.39-44)
 - “Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also?”
 - “Give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you”
 - “But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”

- “You love the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.”

 - “You are like graves which are not seen, and the men who walk over them are not aware of them.”
3. What was the function of the “lawyers” in that society? Explain the following statements (Luke 11.45-52):
- “You load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers.”

 - “You build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. 48 In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs.”

 - “Therefore the wisdom of God also said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,’ that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation.”

 - “For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.”

Special Question: What is significant about Jesus saying these men would be charged with “the blood of... Abel... to... Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple.” Why did Jesus mention these two men?

4. How did the scribes and Pharisees react to Jesus rebuke?

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While He was still talking to the multitudes, and a multitude was sitting around Him, behold, His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside, seeking to speak with Him, they sent to Him, calling Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. And it was told Him by some, who said, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You.” But He answered them, saying, “Who is My mother, or My brothers?” And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother. My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”