



“My Mother is Doing My Father’s Will”

Sermon Text: Ps. 71:9; Matt. 12:46-50

This is an interesting response from Jesus to His family when He thought His mother and brothers wanted to have a word with Him. As usual Jesus was surrounded by crowds who always wanted Him to do something for them. He could be found sitting among the multitude on any given day and sharing the wisdom or Word of God. When Jesus was consumed with doing His Father’s will He was singularly focused on what was before Him and did not let earthly family members influence His mission.

In fact Jesus would become so intensely involved with His Father’s mission that His closest associates thought that He was mad, de-ranged, or maybe beside Himself (Mark 3:21). They did not understand Him (John 7:5). Most son’s when told that their mother was waiting to speak with them, would stop whatever they were doing and seek their mother’s wisdom. Jesus asked a rather pointed question, “Who is my mother?” The disciples response is not recorded, but I can imagine that after they processed Jesus’ question that they answered, “Mary.”

In verse 50 Jesus makes it resoundingly clear that “whoever does the will of my Father is my mother.” Jesus was not denying His responsibility to His earthly family. On the contrary, He criticized the religious leaders for not following the Old Testament command to honor their parents (Matt. 15:1-9). He provided for His mother’s security as He hung on the cross (John 19:25-27). He was not being disrespectful to His mother, but had to emphasize whom He felt was the person who was His true mother, brother or sister. There is a joy beneath the pain in this confession by Christ. Here was a love more sure and tender than any human love: the love of the Father for His children, and their penitent and adoring love toward Him. Here was a spiritual bond stronger than any bond of flesh, an eternal bond far surer than the death-broken bonds of time. Here was a devotion fashioned in the dangerous business of doing God’s will (Mark 3:35), a loyalty held in God’s own hands.

Within the church everyone should find understanding, security, mutual love, and the challenge of the kingdom. For we, the followers, of Christ are a family and when we do the will of our Father we are the mothers, fathers, and siblings of “The Family Of God.”

This morning I have asked Mother Martha Avery Speights, a mother in God’s kingdom, to share with us her profound wisdom of 92 years of experience and more than 50 years serving as a witness for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. She will share, with us, from her vast spiritual well of knowledge in her own words, as a mother, what Jesus meant: Her message will be a blessing for each of us.

STRIVE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE TO DO THE WILL OF GOD AND JESUS WILL BE YOUR COMFORTER.

Pastor Gerald L. Durley