

# *Singleness & Marriage*

## *Family Redefined*

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Matthew 12:46-50

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**Introduction:** Did you know that you will be single for eternity? That's not a word of prophetic doom! (Despite what they might tell you in the culture today.) That's a promise of eternal bliss. Jesus says: "In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage." Someday we'll all be single! So how does that promise and the coming bliss shape life today? What does it tell us about the meaning of singleness and marriage today? And how should it shape the commitments we make to one another as members of one another in the new family of Jesus today?

**Review:** What did God teach you about choosing love in difficult interactions., this week?

**Read:** Matthew 12:46-50

**Prayer:** Loving Father God, we want to learn more about the family that you have invited us into. Teach us your truth as we seek you together, Amen

### **Discussion:**

1. How do you define family? Who is included in family events? Who decides who is and is not included?
2. How is Jesus defining family in this passage? Who is he including? What does this mean for his mother Mary and his brothers?
3. What does it mean to "do the will of my father in heaven"? (For more about what Jesus says on this topic see John 6:35-40; Matthew 28:19-20 and John 15:12-17)
4. What does Jesus's definition of family mean to you? Who is now included? How does this affect the way that you relate to fellow believers? What are the obligations and blessings of being in the Family of God?

**Application:** Think about who you are family with. How can you practice loving them?

**Prayer:** Holy God, Thank you for the great diversity of your family. Help us to see our kingdom brothers and sisters in a new way, Amen.