

Matthew 12 43-50

Matthew 12:43-50 "When an unclean spirit comes out of a person, it travels through dry country seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says to itself, "I will return to the house I left." When it arrives, it finds the house standing empty, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they come and live there" so that in the end, the person is worse off than he was before. This is how it will be for this wicked generation. He was still speaking to the crowd when his mother and brothers appeared outside, asking to talk with him. But to the one who had informed him he replied, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Pointing to his talmidim (students), he said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does what my Father in heaven wants, that person is my brother and sister and mother."

Devotional

The problem is that the evil spirit found the house "empty". This is the description of someone who attempts moral reform without ever being indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Reform apart from regeneration is never effective and eventually reverts back to pre-reform behavior. Bible Footnotes NKJV Who is my mother? This is the first of several incidents where Yeshua's treatment of his family is considered by some to be disrespectful, even though in Matthew 19:19 he affirms the fifth commandment of "honor your father and your mother". The rabbis of this time and later considered their students as family. His remarks do not come from a lack of respect, but from his emphasis on his messianic mission. As such, the true family of the Messiah includes only those who have placed their trust in him. Jewish sources teach the same thing with respect to one's faith in Adonai, God our Father, Yahweh. Complete Jewish Bible