

# GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion

## 37 – Jesus' Mother and Brothers

### Announcements:

8/14 @5:30 -

*Joint Service with  
La Luz Bible Church*

8/15 @6:30 -

*Men's Group*

8/17 @7:00 -

*Corporate  
Prayer*

8/18 @6:30 -

*Grace Group*

8/21 @8:30 -

*Sunday School*

**ICE BREAKER:** Give a QUICK (like less than 90 seconds) testimony!

*While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him.*

*Matthew 12:46*

From some points of view, this is a very unremarkable verse. From a literary point of view, it is just a transitory verse, moving the stage from the interaction with the Pharisees and giving the setting for the points to come. From a “how David will preach this passage” point of view all Matthew is doing is setting the stage for the heavier theological points to come. But from certain theological points of view, this verse is HIGHLY problematic. If you were to hold to the doctrine of Mary’s sinlessness then the fact that she is “outside” and used as an example of NOT being in the heavenly family, you might have some issues here. If you are someone who holds to what is called the “perpetual virginity” of Mary, the fact that Jesus would have brothers is, like noted above, very challenging to say the least. So today we will tackle these misconceptions head on, not just to show their folly, but hopefully for the betterment of our souls.

First let's look at the fact that the mother of Jesus “stood outside”. While Matthew is not as explicit in telling us the feelings of the family of Jesus here, Mark is much more forthcoming. Mark tells us that when the family hears of the works and teaching of Jesus: *they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”* (Mark 3:21b). The point is this: Even the family, even the very Mother, of Jesus struggled to live the life of faith. She who saw this child grow up in wisdom and knowledge of the Lord, who “lost” him at the temple to find him later studying and asking questions; the mother who had to have at least some inkling that this child is much easier than most - he was never grounded, never talked back, never disobeyed - even Mary who had known Jesus her whole life did not find faith in him to be a thing that comes naturally. While I often lament over the christmas song “Mary did you know” that the answer is yes (The angel told her and she sings about it in Luke 2!), her life tells us that possibly a more correct answer is “she should have known, but lacked the faith.”

**DISCUSS:** In what ways can the doubt of Mary be a lesson and source of encouragement for us?

Now we can turn our attention to the thought that Jesus had brothers. I have found that when people hear this there are exactly two reactions. One is to deny, because being raised to think of the perpetual virginity of Mary excludes that thought. The other is to shrug and think: so what. I would argue that we should approach this from a third point of view which is this: what an incredible blessing for us to know! There are many reasons why this may be of value to our souls. Those of us who have siblings know the pain and heartache that we sometimes experience at their hands. We also know of the temptation to (to say this nicely) not honor them as they deserve (to say it not nicely: smack them upside the head, either to teach them a lesson or because it is funny!). Jesus, our great high priest, knows these feelings too. He is able to comfort us in times of pain at the hands of our siblings because he himself has experienced those same feelings. He is able to help us when tempted because he was “tempted in every way yet remained without sin”. Jesus was fully human and fully God, and in that precious incarnation he lived a life like ours, down to even having siblings!

**DISCUSS:** What are some other ways it can be good for us to know Jesus had siblings?