

Who is my mother, who are my brothers?

Homily, 21st November, 2016

Mat 12,46-50

father G. Papparone o.p.

My dearest,

These *Words* might even shock us, because the Lord seems to distance Himself from His mother, His siblings...

He seems not to care about His own mother's love, the woman who gave birth to Him, the woman who worries for Him, He seems not to care that this woman is coming to look for Him.

In fact this is not true, and it is easy to guess.

Jesus wants to help His disciples, His audience, all of us, understand that **He has come among us to give Himself to everybody, to love everybody and to avoid His reign from sowing the seeds of privilege, of birth rights, of genealogy**, as it happens in the royal families or in the big monarchies, where the children of those in power acquire their rights when they are born.

Nothing has to be given for granted in our relation with God.

In the new reign, in the reign that Jesus has come to establish, the only thing that gives value to our relationships is love. The love of God.

A love of God that cannot be generic, not emotional, not sentimental, but a very concrete, practical, visible love of God.

Whoever does the will of God, *whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.*

This means that whoever does the will of Jesus' father, the will of God, starts a special relation with Him, a relation that is full of love.

It is clear that Mary, His mother, has done the will of God in an excellent, sublime way.

Therefore Jesus doesn't reject, doesn't deny, **He just wants to teach us not to believe that in his reign there might be other reasons, other motivations, other rights, other things besides the concept of real love through the word of God.**

With these *words* the Lord is teaching us how to understand that at the center of our life we have to put one single concern: putting His word into practice.

Let's then ask the Lord to teach us to live His word each day with trust and simplicity. In this way we will surely be His friends, his relatives, we will be sure that we will be loving Him and be loved back, that we will be reigning with Him one day, and at the end of time, in His heavenly reign.

May the Lord be praised