

# Brother

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"And He (Jesus) went out from there, and came into His own country; and His disciples follow Him. And when the Sabbath day had come, He began to teach in the synagogue; and many hearing Him were astonished, saying, 'From where has this Man these things? And what wisdom is this which has been given unto Him, that even such mighty works are performed by His hands? Is this not the Carpenter, the Son of Mary, **the Brother of James, and Joses, and of Jude, and Simon?** And are not His sisters here with us?' And they were offended at Him. But Jesus, said unto them, 'A prophet is not without honor, except in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.' And He could not do mighty works there, except that He laid His hands upon a few sick people, and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief." (Mark 6:1-3-6)

See also Matthew 13:55: "Is not this the Carpenter's Son? And, is not His mother called Mary? and His brothers: James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?"

**Brother:** from the Greek word: *adelphos*, which means: a brother; from "**a**" ( the first letter of the Greek alphabet), and "**Delphus**"; "**a**" is used as a prefix, and is used here with a sense of joining or connecting; and "**Delphus**" translates "**womb**". Thus, *adelphos* (a noun masculine) literally means "**joined to the womb**" but is always translated brother.

**Brothers, Brethren:** from "*adelphoi*" (Plural of *adelphos*). The context is brothers born of (joined to) the same womb: Mary's. The word '**brethren**' is used when all saints, men and women, are implied as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

**Sisters:** from the Greek word: *adelphai*: (a plural noun feminine) which means: sisters. ("*Adephe*" is singular for **sister**.) **Adelphos and Adephei** When used in context together implies joined to one womb, **the womb of their mother**; thus a brother and his sisters.

Thus the context is: Jesus is the **Brother of** James, Joses, Jude, Simon, and His sisters; all of whom were born of the same womb - Mary's! Jesus, and His brothers and sisters, are the sons and daughters of Mary the wife of Joseph the carpenter! The people of His home town of Nazareth, and other folks throughout the region of Galilee were personally acquainted with the family of Joseph and Mary, the family of carpenters! In the eyes of these local folks, Jesus was just an ordinary tradesman, from an ordinary local family, with ordinary brothers and sisters.

We might just wonder what this local family was like? Consider these insights to mediate on:

- Jesus, plus his four brothers, and two or more sisters, means there were seven or more kids growing up in this family.
- Jesus was the Firstborn, and thus the eldest child in their family. (Matthew 1:25)
- Jesus, at about 3 or 4 years old, was most likely still the only child when He and His parents returned to Nazareth from exile in Egypt. (Matthew 2:19-23)
- Thus Jesus would have been, at a minimum, 4 to 5 years old when James, His first sibling was born. Brothers, were usually listed from the oldest to the youngest.
- Jesus lived with His parents for thirty years, and lived with His siblings, according to when they were born; up to the age thirty, when He left home to begin His ministry.
- Children, born in a nursing culture, were usually born at a minimum of two years apart. Thus, when the youngest sibling of Jesus was born, He would have been at least thirteen years old, or older.
- Older siblings, in a normal family, are often entrusted with younger child care responsibilities. Jesus was the oldest Sibling in His Family!
- Jesus and His brothers were trained up into the trade of their father Joseph as carpenters. They would have worked closely together producing a wide variety quality wood based products: furniture, structures, etc., and, as implied, were widely known by folks throughout the galilee region.

# Brother

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During the years of growing up in Nazareth, Jesus, would have experienced all the normal joys and experiences of home town life, along with His brothers, sisters, parents, relatives, and friends. It says that during these years that "Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and favor with God and men." (Luke 2:52)

But things changed once Jesus left home and begin His ministry. Many of His hometown folks took offense at His wisdom, and fame. Even His own brothers begin to doubt their older Brother Jesus. On two separate occasions during His ministry the brothers of Jesus confronted Him! (see John 7:1-9; and Mark 3:20-21)

The truth is: Jesus was sinless, and His brothers and others were not! (see Hebrews 4:15, 9:28)

During His ministry years, the viewpoint of Jesus, concerning **who** were really **His true brothers** changed! Consider this marvelous passage:

"Then His brothers and His mother came to Him; and, standing outside, they sent unto Him, calling Him. And the multitude sat about Him, and they said unto Him, 'Behold, Your mother and your brothers are outside seeking You.' And He answered them, saying, '**Who is My mother, or My brethren?**' And He looked about on those who sat around and about Him, and said, 'Behold My mother and My brethren! For whoever shall do the will of God, the same is My brother, and My sister, and mother!'" (Mark 3:31-35)

Yes, Jesus did have physical brothers and sisters! But now, **we** who behold the Son of God, whom the Father did send to us, and who believe in Him - **we** shall be called By Him: brothers and sisters, and we shall have eternal life, and Jesus shall raise us up on the last day:

"All who the Father gives Me shall come to Me; and those who come to Me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. And this is the Father's will who has sent Me, that of all whom He has given to Me I should lose none, but should raise them up again at the last day." (John 6:37-39)

"And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestined to be conformed to the image of His **Son (Jesus)**, that **He (Jesus)** might be the Firstborn among **many brethren**. (Romans 8:28-29)

The good news concerning His brothers, is that after His resurrection, His brothers were all counted as His disciples as mentioned in Acts 1:12-14. His Brother James, became the very influential first Bishop of the Church in Jerusalem, and also wrote the powerful letter of James! And His brother Jude wrote the Letter of Jude! And we .....!!! And you.....!!

## JESUS is ...

### the Brother of...

... James, Joses, Jude, Simon, and their sisters.

Jesus is also th Brother of all those who believe in Him!

Jesus grew up in a large family with His brothers and sisters!

Now we are growing up within a very large family, the family of God in Christ Jesus!

Lord Jesus, You are my Brother; and You are my King and my Lord!

And You are my Everlasting Father, and my Good Shepherd!

You are my Savior, and my God!

Thank You Father in Heaven for sending Your Son Jesus!

Thank You Jesus for fulfilling the will of the Father on my behalf!

Come soon Lord Jesus!