

LIGHTENING APOLOGETICS



...So to finish up our discussion. Did Jesus have brothers? Let's go to Matthew 27:56, "among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee." This verse shows that some of those identified as Jesus' brothers in Mt 13:55-56, were NOT His brothers but most likely His cousins. There was no word in Aramaic or Hebrew for cousin or other near relatives. This occurrence is not uncommon in the Bible. Genesis 14:14 refers to Lot as Abraham's brother but we know he is Abraham's nephew from Genesis 11:27. A similar practice exists even today of referring to people in the congregation as "brother" or "sister".

With the above verse and in John 19:25 we can see that the Blessed Virgin Mary has a sister or sister-in-law also named Mary. This Mary was the mother of James and Joseph and would be considered the cousins of Jesus. Again, with no word for "cousin", the word "brother" was used. There is a word for "cousin" in Greek but the early translators produced a transliteration rather than a strict translation from the Hebrew/Aramaic. This was done to capture the literal Hebrew meaning of the text.

Let's look at one more Scripture quote. It's John 19:26. "When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"

If Mary had in fact had other children, it would not have been appropriate for Our Lord to assign Her into the care of St. John. The alleged "other children" or "brothers" would have been responsible for taking care of their mother. This would be especially true in Jewish culture.

Why do we as Catholics honor Mary and consider Her so important? Well, through the power of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth singled out Mary as God's most blessed woman. In verse 48, Mary says that all generations will call Her blessed. Why don't Protestants? Even Martin Luther had the highest regard for Mary. It's only within the last couple of hundred years that such a disregard and disdain for Mary emerged. This was not the attitude of the early church or of Christians before or immediately after the Protestant reformation. Catholics do not worship Mary. In this verse Catholics are only doing what the Bible says by giving Her the honor She deserves (hyperdulia). If Our Blessed Mother had not agreed to do the will of God, where would we be today? Mary also acknowledges that She also needed a Savior. We are freed from our original sin at Baptism while Mary was preserved from Her original sin at Her conception. God is not limited by time. We call Her "Our Mother" for She becomes the mother of all the living in the order of grace at the foot of the Cross when Our Lord gives Her to be the Mother of the Church and our loving Mother. Please try to say the daily rosary. Phillip