

THE WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Matthew 12:46-50

46 And while He yet talked unto the people, behold, His mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

47 And then one saith unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

48 But He answered and saith unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

(And they were amazed, and saith one unto the other, What is this that He is saying? And one of them, a Pharisee, saith unto him, questioning, How is it that thou knowest not the woman who gave thee suck, (1.) upon whose paps thou didst hang (let the reader understand,) and the brothers with whom thou playest and maketh merry with at Cana? And He answered them saying, Cans't thou not see that I am being rhetorical and teaching you the deeper things of the kingdom? And some marvelled but most were confused.)

49 And He stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

(And some shruggeth their shoulders and walked away saying, verily He is losing it. But others waited to see what other deep (2.) comments He would come up with. And verily, they were not disappointed, for immediately He pointed at them and said,)

50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

(And lo, when they heard this, most of the crowd dispersed unto the local inn, and ordereth they large cups of honeyed mead and small packets of nuts. And there were much mutterings, and shaking of heads, and pulling of beards, and the men did likewise also.)

**Most Bibles do not have these verses in brackets. The translators of the Wenchoster Bible appear to have had access to manuscripts that have been mainly lost. Some fragments of the controversial Codex Umbilicus remain in a vault at the Coptic monastery just outside of the ancient village of Bendi Niqap, but no westerner has been permitted to view them since the unfortunate incident on St Martin's Day 1309.*

(1.) Here the Greek is uncertain.

(2.) Greek: Από τα έντερα. Literally, "of the bowels."