

Matthew 11:25-30 – The Heart of Christ: Meek & Lowly

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, April 21, 2024

Matt 11:25-30 – Jesus placing a capstone on the end of His great Galilean ministry. **He reveals His heart.**

Context: John & Jesus rejected. He cursed the cities that received His miracles & message and yet rejected Him.

The problem was not the method but the message. Most people didn't want to hear it... but some did.

As a Child

Matt 11:25-26 *At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. This was a spontaneous exclamation of praise to the Father in the hearing of His disciples.*

these things – the message and activities of the Kingdom of Heaven

Two reasons for Praise:

1. Hiding “these things from the Wise & Prudent”
wise and prudent – the self-confident, self-sufficient, and self-justifying that saw no need for Jesus.
2. Revealing “these things” unto babes
babes – those with a humility and willingness to hear, consider, learn, and receive Jesus.

Why would Jesus rejoice that “these things” were hidden from anyone?

1 Cor 2:7-8 *But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (ESV)*

Even God's hiding and hardening of hearts has a redemptive purpose. For, “it seemed good in Thy (God's) sight.”

TAKEAWAY: God is not discovered through an academic exercise or deduction; He reveals Himself to the humble.

Through Christ Alone

Matt 11:27 *All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.*

All things – the full work of redemption

The Father not only committed “all things” to Jesus, but intertwined their revelation and funnels it through Christ.

John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

TAKEAWAY: The Lord is not expressing a desire to limit access to Himself but focusing us on Christ.

SEGWAY: This great invitation (next) is preceded by two guardrails. **God is found through humility & through Christ.**

Come to Jesus

Matt 11:28-30 *Come unto me, all ye that labor & are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you & learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, & my burden is light.*

As all things are committed to Christ and He is the narrow door, here is His invitation.

Labor and Heavy Laden

Jesus comes at this from another angle. Do you see the weakness of your current system?

Labor – actively working hard to crowbar your life into smoothness

Heavy Laden – passively finding yourself weighed down by something outside your control

- **Jesus was speaking into the context of Jewish legalism.**
Matt 23:4 *For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. This applies to any form of legalism.*
At its heart, legalism is believing that you can take care of your problems yourself. Religion of Human Achievement
- **This also applies to the burden of sin (heavy laden)**
Proverbs 13:15 *Good understanding giveth favor: But the way of transgressors is hard. Sin brings death.*
Whether you've had “bad luck” or created your own... there is only an increasing burden apart from Christ.

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Reason 1: Rest!

- The invitation is to give you rest. **Both the legalistic and the lawless are craving the same thing... rest!**
- **What kind of rest does Jesus give?** He tells us. It is rest for your souls.
Whether you are trying to measure up (legalism, praying hard enough...) or just struggling under the mess... rest.
- The invitation is personal (to you... from Him)
This invitation isn't just to the lost. We can wander back into legalism & lawlessness and lose our sense of rest.

Reason 2: He is Meek & Lowly

Do not miss how profound this statement is.

Proverbs 4:23 *Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life.*

Your heart reveals the great animating purpose and desire in your life.

Only here in Scripture does Jesus so plainly tell us His heart. Here is what He says: *"I am meek and lowly in heart..."*

- Meek – gentle, kind, compassionate
- Lowly – humble, approachable, accessible. He has the heart of a servant.

How is Jesus Meek & Lowly (Gentle & Approachable) in Heart?

- 1. In His delight in "these things" being hidden from proud and revealed to the humble**
Ezekiel 18:23 *Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? (ESV)*
Even the Father's judicial hardening is meant to work a redemptive purpose... to make salvation possible to all.
- 2. In His whole-hearted ministry to the sinners and outcasts.**
Illus: Leper (touched), woman caught in adultery (forgiven), go to the house of Gentile, ate with Zacchaeus
Matt 11:19 *The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds." (ESV)*
The Holy God, incarnate in Jesus Christ, did not step away from them, but reached out to them.
This gentle, approachable heart awoke each morning with a yearning to express that love in a broken life.
- 3. In His great patience with His people.**
Luke 22:31–32 *And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*
Christian friend, do you believe that Christ has stepped away from you in your rebellion?
Illus: A child with cancer that could only be treated with chemo. **Wouldn't your heart be enflamed for them?**