

## Prayer to the Father (11:25-26)

11:25 *At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants."* 11:26 *Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight."*

### Connecting with What Came Before

- There are actually two speaking verbs in the original Greek: "At that time Jesus **answering said**" (Young's Literal Translation). "Answering" tells us that Jesus' words are connected to what has previously been said (11:20-24). Jesus now further explains the rejection of His mission (11:16-24): the disobedience to His call to repent.

### The Son and the Father: Praise

- 11:25-26 is directed at the Father. We know from John 11:42 that Jesus publicly speaks to the Father to increase the faith of those who hear Him.
- The exalted title "*Lord of heaven and earth*" stands out, doesn't it? Jesus is pointing to the sovereignty of God even in the rejection of the Gospel previously described: their disbelief did not remove God from His throne.

### The Way Pleasing to the Father Hidden These Things

- What are "*these things*" that the Father has "*hidden...from the wise and intelligent*"? The context of the previous chapters tells us "*these things*" are the arrival of the Kingdom and the Son's fulfillment of the O.T. promises.
- "*Wise and intelligent*" describes here a prideful attitude more than education or aptitude. The falsely "*wise and intelligent*" are those who rely on their own abilities; those who would be truly "*wise and intelligent*" humbly rely on the revelation of God in His Word. See 1 Corinthians 1:8-2:16.

- In Paul's letters, God is described as having hidden the Gospel in ages past, but revealing it in the days of Christ and His apostles.<sup>1</sup>
- This divine "hiding" is also the reason Jesus speaks in parables (13:10-17).

### Revealed Them

- The "*infants*" who have "*these things*" revealed to them by the Father are the "*little ones*" (10:42) – Jesus' disciples. These are those who are humble, repentant, and fully reliant on God (see the Beatitudes, 5:3-11). Compare "*infants*" with similar terms for Jesus' followers (10:42; 18:6-14; 25:40,45).
- God uses the proclamation and teaching of the Gospel of Jesus from the Word to open spiritual eyes blinded by sin.<sup>2</sup> READ 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 3:14-17.
- We are reminded that God does not evaluate and value people the way the world does – He does not build His Church with the powerful, the celebrity, the wealthy. We need to be reminded of this in an age of Christian "celebrity" preachers and artists, and in a time when we place high value on famous and powerful people who claim

<sup>1</sup> This is the N.T. concept of "mystery" (1 Corinthians 2:9; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:26).

<sup>2</sup> "In God's appointed and acceptable time, He is pleased to call effectually, by His Word and Spirit, those He has predestined to life. He calls them out of their natural state of sin and death to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ. He enlightens their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God. He takes away their heart of stone and gives them a heart of flesh. He renews their wills and by His almighty power turns them to good and effectually draws them to Jesus Christ. Yet He does all this in such a way that they come completely freely, since they are made willing by His grace" (1689 Baptist Confession of Faith in Modern English, 10.1).

to be Christian (especially those with a big media presence). We may think them especially important, but Scripture gives no indication that God counts them more than the member of the smallest church in the middle of nowhere.

### Knowing the Father and Son (11:27)

11:27 *“All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”*

#### The Son Has Received All Things

- What are the “*all things*” Jesus speaks of here? It is true that Jesus has authority over “*all things*,” but this authority isn’t given to Him until after His resurrection (Matthew 28:18). In the context, I lean toward interpreting the “*all things*” to mean those whom the Father has given the Son unto salvation (John 6:37; 10:29; 17:2,6,9,11,24), or the authority the Father has given the Son in revealing Him.

#### The Son and the Father: Knowledge

- The unique relationship of the Father and Son is highlighted here (see also 2:15; 3:17; 17:5). It was this relationship that was the target of the devil’s temptation (4:3,6). It will be later that the disciples proclaim Jesus to be Son of God (14:33; 16:16).
- We should be wary of teachers, books, blogs, and songs that speak of God apart from the Son. The Bible is clear: without the Son we do not have the Father (2 John 9). We should not have anything in our “spiritual diet” that minimizes or avoids this indispensable, critical reality.

#### The Revelation of the Son

- How does the Son reveal the Father? He does it by His Spirit, Who works through the Church’s proclamation and teaching of the Word. Our call is to proclaim and teach this Book that is about Jesus.

### The Gospel Call (11:28-30)

11:28 *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 11:30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

#### The Call Does Not Contradict

- Those who answer Jesus’ command “*come*” are those to whom Jesus has willed to reveal the Father (11:27), and those to whom the Father has revealed “*these things*” (11:25).
- READ John 6:37,44,65.
- To “*come*” to Christ is to “*believe*” in Him (John 6:35).

#### The Need for Rest

- “*Weary and heavy-laden*” refers to the Pharisees’ interpretation and application of God’s Law (see also 23:4). This will be highlighted immediately after this in 12:1-21.
- Jesus alone provides rest from the impossible effort of man-made religion to earn salvation by our own works, deeds, or goodness.
- Jesus’ words “*rest for your souls*” is an allusion to Jeremiah 6:16 – and is therefore a warning.
- Notice the promise of “*rest*,” which will be followed by teaching about the Sabbath (12:1-21).

#### The Character of the Son

- Taking Jesus’ “*yoke*” is to “*learn*” from Him. This is the principle command of our Great Commission: “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations*” (28:19, KJV). Jesus’ disciples (learners) are to make other learners.
- We interpret and obey the Bible through Jesus (His witness and given through the inspired New Testament), not through traditions, culture, or preference.
- Consider the character of this soul-Shepherd and rest in Him (Psalm 23:1-6).