

Matthew

Sermon on the Mount

January 12, 2025

I. Introduction

- A. **Matthew 11:25-30**, 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. [26] Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. [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. [28] Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. [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. [30] For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”
- B. Today’s portion of Matthew provides another good example of the need to understand a specific statement, verse, or group of verses according their surrounding context, along with statements dealing with the same or similar issue found in other places in the Bible. In other words, when possible, build your understanding of a statement, verse, or group of verses on more than the statement or verse alone.
- C. Pray

II. God hides from some and reveals to others. Jesus reveals as He wills.

- A. [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. [26] Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. [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.**”
 1. In these verses, Jesus presents **three** principles that have been at work and continue to be at work in the world today.
 2. **First Principle:** God **hides** the truth about Jesus, His saving work, the life of faith, and the way of love from those who use their wisdom and education to blind their eyes and harden their hearts to such truth with the result that they ignore or resist accepting the truth and living accordingly. Hiding this truth doesn’t mean God makes it inaccessible or impossible to find, just not obvious and sensible to the rejecting mind. However, God **reveals** this truth to those who, like a child, are

simple and honest in the use of their intellect and therefore thoughtfully consider, humbly accept, and intentionally live according to the truth revealed.

3. **Second Principle:** God has handed all things over to Jesus so that Jesus is one with God in all things – including His dealings with us.
4. **Third Principle:** God and Jesus fully and completely know each other. Those who come to know God are those to whom Jesus wills/chooses to reveal God.
 - a. Given principles one and two, we can assume Jesus reveals God to those who, like a child, are simple and honest in the use of their intellect in pursuing truth about God and godliness.
5. For the rest of the time, we will examine these principles more closely.

B. **First Principle:** In **hiding** from some and **revealing** to others, the principle God establishes is that when it comes to making sense of such things as the reality of God, the character of God, and the truth God wants us to know about Jesus and godly living, He responds to us according to our response to Him. If we seek, He reveals truth. If we reject or become hostile toward Him, He hides truth.

1. This activity did not begin with Jesus, it began in OT days.
 - a. **Isaiah 47:10-11** (*an example of self-created self-deception, and irrational thinking*) “You felt secure in your wickedness and said, ‘No one sees me’ (*I don’t have to answer to anyone*). Your wisdom and your knowledge, they have deluded you; for you have said in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one besides me (*I am the best person for deciding what is best for me and how I should live*).’ [11] But evil will come on you which you will not know how to charm away (*you’ll lack the necessary wisdom*); and disaster will fall on you for which you cannot atone (*you’ll lack the means to appease God and stop the disaster*); and destruction about which you do not know will come on you suddenly (*you lack the foresight that would have prepared you for the future*).”
 - b. **1 Corinthians 2:1-14**, And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. [2] For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. [3] I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, [4] and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, [5] so that **your faith would not rest** on the wisdom of men, but **on**

the power of God (*the revealing work of God*). [6] Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; **a wisdom**, however, **not of this age** nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; [7] but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; [8] the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood (*because of their own ungodly way of thinking and looking at the world*); for **if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory**; [9] but just as it is written, "Things which **eye** has not seen and **ear** has not heard, and which have not **entered the heart** of man – all the things that God has prepared for (*and reveals to*) those who love Him." [10] For to us **God revealed** them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. [11] For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. [12] Now **we have received**, not the spirit of the world, but **the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know** the things freely given to us by God, [13] which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. [14] But **a natural man does not accept** the things of the Spirit of God, for **they are foolishness** to him; and **he cannot understand them**, because they are spiritually appraised.

- c. What we see here is that believing in God's existence, understanding His truth, coming to terms with Jesus and His saving work, and living accordingly are dependent on two things:
 - (1) First, **God's** revealing and enabling work,
 - (2) Second, **a realistic and active desire** on our part to (1) know God, (2) trust God, (3) have an open mind – so that we can understand His truth, and (4) commit to living accordingly.
- 2. If we must have a realistic and active desire that proves itself in seeking God and His truth, why do we need God's revealing and enabling work?
 - a. We need the revealing and enabling work of God because the very idea of God being our supreme being, the very idea that God's will and word direct us in the best way to live, that humility is better than pride, that God is perfectly good and therefore worthy of complete trust, and that love is about giving rather than receiving is **so contrary** to self-centeredness, pride, anxiety, irrational fear,

- self-rule, self-protection, self-fulfillment, self-pleasure, immediate gratification, the pursuit of ungodly relief when life is hard, and worldly based security, that all that God is and wants for us **makes no sense** to those who live for self and according to the will of self.
- (1) Therefore, because it makes no sense to the sin-sick mind, we need God's revealing work to make sense of it, and God's empowerment to live accordingly.
 - b. For example, the "wise and intelligent" of Jesus' day locked themselves into an understanding of the Bible that inhibited them from seeing Jesus as God, or the Messiah.
 - (1) Their jealousy prevented them from seeing it was God who had gifted Jesus with the power to do miracles.
 - (2) And their fear of being outdone by an outsider prevented them from seeing Jesus as someone they should accept and support.
 - (3) In other words, their need to be superior, their need to feel important, and their need to be in control was **so contrary** to Jesus and His teaching that nothing about Jesus or His teaching made sense to them.
 - c. The point is, in order for us to go from what makes no sense to it making sense enough to be able to believe it and then apply it in realistic, practical ways to everyday life – we need the revealing and enabling work of God, even though we are interested, and open, or even hungry for God and the truth.
3. But why does God hide the truth from those who are disinterested, or contentedly naive, or self-deceived, or openly antagonistic? Doesn't He want all to come to repentance?
- a. Yes, He does want all to come to repentance (**2 Peter 3:9**).
 - b. **John 3:16** says that God loves the world so much that He sent Jesus to die in our place so we can be saved.
 - c. **John 16:8** says that the Holy Spirit **convicts the world** concerning sin and righteousness and judgment – in this life and in the life to come.
 - d. Yet, like many Jews in Isaiah's day and like the scribes, Pharisees, and many of the Jews in Jesus day, there are religious people today who have set their heart on rejecting godliness, who interpret God's will and word in self-serving ways, and who only want as much of Jesus as they need in order to have eternal life. These are blind-eyed, hard-hearted religious rejecters of God's will and word.
 - e. But there are also the non-religious who want nothing to do with God or even the idea of God, who want nothing to do with living

according to God's will and word, and who even want to stamp out any teaching that proclaims that God exists, that the truth of God matters, and that godliness is the best way to live. These are the avowed, worldly unbelievers who have set the course of their lives to go in any direction other than God's direction.

4. It is these two groups, the blind-eyed, hard-hearted religious rejecters and the avowed, worldly unbelievers who God hides the truth from.
 - a. These must come to their senses on their own and open themselves up to considering and accepting what they once thought senseless and foolish.
 - b. These must push themselves to ask, seek, and knock – but if and when they do, the revealing work of God will become as real and effective for them as it has been for you.
5. Once again, hiding doesn't mean inaccessible, just hard to find. The truth is there for all to see, hear, consider, and accept, but it must be intentionally sought or willfully accepted when brought to one's attention. God's revealing work is not just for salvation, it is also for life-long learning about the will and word of God, and growing in godliness.

C. **Second Principle:** God has handed all things over to Jesus so that Jesus is one with God in all things – including His dealings with us.

1. [27a] “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father.”
2. In **John 3:35**, Jesus said, “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.”
3. Paul put it this way in **Colossians 1:15-20**, [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. [16] For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. [17] He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. [18] He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. [19] For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, [20] and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself (*God*).

D. **Third Principle:** God and Jesus fully and completely know each other. Those who come to know God are those to whom Jesus wills/chooses to reveal God.

1. [27b] “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.”
2. Jesus said something similar in **John 1:18**, “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”
3. And in **John 14:6**, Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”
4. Given principles one and two, we can assume Jesus reveals God the same way God reveals truth – to those who, like a child, are simple and honest in the use of their intellect in pursuing truth about God and godliness.

III. Conclusion

- A. It is in this context that Jesus said, [28] “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. [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. [30] For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”