

Matthew 11:25-27 The Importance of Keeping an Open Mind to the Gospel

Introduction: Matthew told about the twelve being sent out to preach the gospel. He did not tell about the seventy also being sent out. The seventy return to hear Jesus deliver this sermon to the masses. (Luke 10) Jesus earlier rebuked the masses for not repenting and believing the gospel. Neither at John's preaching nor His own. Particularly He rebuked the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum. Now He speaks of those to whom the gospel is hidden.

I. The ones to whom the gospel is hidden, Verse 25.

- A. Jesus first thanks the Father and pays tribute to Him as the supreme ruler of heaven and earth.
- B. He thanked God that the gospel is hidden from the wise and prudent.
 - 1. The Greek word translated “wise” means “the learned, the well educated, the scholarly, the well informed.” (In Israel that was the scribes and Pharisees.)
 - 2. The Greek word translated “prudent” carries the idea of intellect, quick to learn, mentally sharp. (The scribes and the Pharisees were sharp.)
 - 3. But these had no insight into spiritual truth, (It was hidden from them. When John and Jesus preached they had not the foggiest idea of what the gospel was all about.)

II. Why the gospel is hidden. Verse 25

- A. Not that God has anything against intelligence. (He doesn't.)
- B. Not that God has anything against learning. (He doesn't.)
- C. Not that God had anything against these particular people being saved. (He didn't.)
- D. The problem is that smart, intellectual people often think that they already know the answer and they refuse to keep an open mind to the truth.
 - 1. That is what the scribes and Pharisees did.
 - 2. That is what the great masses of people did.

III. The Ones to whom the gospel is revealed, Verse 25.

- A. The gospel is revealed to babes. (Infants and small children.)
- B. Not that these were literally babes, but they were like babes in certain respects.
 - 1. Babes do not talk; they listen and learn.
(The Pharisees did not learn because they wanted to do all the talking.)
 - 2. The ones who knew that they did not know the answers listened to John and to Jesus and they learned.
- C. They are the ones who got saved.

IV. The impossibility of any man fully understanding God, Verses 26-27.

- A. The word translated “knoweth” means “to fully know.”
- B. No one fully knows the Son but the Father.
 - 1. Man can know that Jesus is the Son, John 1:34, John 1:49, Matthew 16:16.
 - 2. But no man can fully know the Son. (Not even the angels fully understand Him.)
 - 3. Only God the Father fully knows Him.
- C. Only the Son fully understands the Father.
 - 1. Ordinary man can not fully understand being all mighty, all knowing, all wise, all loving.
 - 2. Only the Son who is His co-equal can fully understand.
(All things are delivered to Him.)

V. Man's great opportunity of getting to know God, Verse 27.

- A. Man can at least partially know God.
 - 1. He can know Him in saving grace.
 - 2. Then after he is saved, he can know some of the teachings of God.
(Enough to know God's will for his life, John 7:17.)
- B. But the way to get to know God is not thru human intellect and learning.
- C. It is thru a personal acquaintance with Jesus.
- D. To fully trust Jesus Christ is to be enlightened to the gospel.
(Jesus will enlighten all who trust him.)

Conclusion: There are a lot of people today whose minds are closed to the gospel, but I am asking you not to close yours. I am asking you to trust in Jesus Christ right here and right now.

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