



## The King on Mission Pt 4: Revelations to Little Children

March 24, 2019

### HOLY TEXT: MATTHEW 11:25-26

- *Matthew 11:25-26 (ESV) At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.*
- *Matthew 11:25-26 (NLT) At that time Jesus prayed this prayer: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. 26 Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way!*

### RECAP

- When we were last in this Text, we read of our LORD's pronouncements of WOE (an emotional interjection of grief and future calamity) against three cities: Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum.
- These were cities very close together in which our LORD preached and performed powerful miracles who nevertheless rejected Jesus as King and Messiah.
- These predominantly Jewish cities were compared by Jesus to pagan cities (Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom). One sobering lesson we learned was that, "It is possible that those who do not know the LORD or those without a "church" background might receive the Word of the LORD before those of us who do. Let us remain teachable and humble!"<sup>1</sup>
- I would very much encourage you to go back over that message, and in particular, the applications.

### REVELATIONS TO LITTLE CHILDREN

1. Today, we read that our LORD continues His rebuke of those cities, comparing their arrogance to the humility of those who do receive the "things" of God.
2. One commentator wrote, "The cities had every chance to welcome the Lord Jesus. They deliberately refused to submit to Him. When they refused the light, God withheld the light from them. But God's plans will not fail. If the intelligentsia will not believe, then God will reveal Him to humble hearts. He fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty ([Luk 1:53](#))."
3. The Greek work for "little children" or "babes" in this context means, one who is "untaught or unskilled." (Thayer) In other words, it is a metaphor for one who can receive the Word of God humbly, with little to no pretense, personal agenda, or self-aggrandizement.
4. One very obvious lesson we can observe is this: God blesses the humble of heart.
  - *James 4:6 (NLT) And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*
  - *1 Peter 5:5 (NLT) In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Isaiah 66:2 (KJV) For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*
  - *Matthew 5:3-9 (KJV) Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are they which*

<sup>1</sup> William MacDonald, Bible Believer's Commentary, 1992.

*do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*

5. In our Text, we also see Jesus express the sort of humility He Himself desires in His servants:
- As Jesus gives thanks, He calls God “Father.” To do so expresses His contentment with His place within the Triune Godhead, His acceptance of His redemptive assignment, and His submission to the will of the Father.
  - He also calls the Father “LORD of heaven and earth.” This phrase does not imply that Jesus is not that same LORD over all things (for the Scripture declares that Jesus “...is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” Colossians 1:15-17).
  - Rather, Jesus takes the place of submission before the Father.
  - Finally, Jesus says, “thou hast hid.” Jesus expresses His trust in the Father’s sovereign plan of redemption, calling those whom He will. In His high-priestly prayer in John 17, He did the same:

*John 17:9-11 (KJV) I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. 10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. 11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.*

#### DIGGING DEEPER: WHY DOES GOD REVEAL PRECIOUS THINGS TO “BABES?”

1. As we have said, the *little child* or the *babe* is a metaphor for those with humble, receptive hearts.
2. One author summarized it this way:

The babe is the representative of the receptive spirit-trusting, open to impression, free from prejudice (person). The prime requisites in the child-spirit are unconsciousness and humility. The grounds for God’s dealing thus are as follows:

- A. To reveal to babes harmonizes with God’s character as a father, and illustrates it. “Babe” is counterpart to “Father.” A father’s heart is not attracted to the brilliance or power in his family, but to the want. The child who knows his father will have a knowledge of things beyond the reach of research.
- B. To reveal to babes glorifies God as Lord of heaven and earth. The higher and mightier you conceive God to be, the more necessary it is to know that (you are) lowly, and to have abundant proof of it.
- C. God thus manifests the supremacy of the moral element. The understanding has but a narrow horizon; the spirit embraces eternity and God. Knowledge and ingenuity are as nothing without righteousness. What inventiveness or brilliancy could ever supply the place of honesty faithfulness, goodwill in the homes of men?
- D. God thus shows his desire to reveal as much as possible, and to as many as possible. Had He revealed specially to intellect, to the wise and understanding, what a little circle, what a select coterie it would have been! The great mass of mankind are burdened with labour, and cannot develop greatly their intellectual nature. But by revealing to babes, God gives hope to universal humanity. While few can be

wise and learned, all may become babes. It is man himself that God wants, not his accomplishments, his energies, his distinctions. (J. Leckie, D.D.)

3. Friends, God hides and God reveals. All revelation of God implies something once concealed.
  - 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (KJV) *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*
  - Colossians 1:26-28 (KJV) *Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:*
4. The point: **God chooses to whom He reveals, and in His sovereign choosing, prefers the humble.**
  - Isaiah 66:1-2 (KJV) *Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? 2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*
  - Why? Listen... *“True humility comes when, in the light of God, we have seen ourselves to be nothing, have consented to part with and cast away self, to let God be all. The soul that has done this, and can say, So have I lost myself in finding You, no longer compares itself with others. It has given up forever every thought of self in God's presence; it meets its fellow-men as one who is nothing, and seeks nothing for itself; who is a servant of God, and for His sake a servant of all. A faithful servant may be wiser than the master, and yet retain the true spirit and posture of the servant. The humble man looks upon every, the feeblest and unworthiest, child of God, and honors him and prefers him in honor as the son of a King. The spirit of Him who washed the disciples' feet, makes it a joy to us to be indeed the least, to be servants one of another.” (Murray)*

#### FINAL THOUGHTS AND APPLICATIONS:

1. Let us Rejoice! What an honor it is to be chosen by God to receive the most precious revelation of all: Jesus is LORD. We are unworthy but have been counted as worthy (2 Thes 1:11). We are sinners yet we have been saved by grace (Eph 2:8). We are the foolish and weak things of the world, and yet by His grace we confound the wise and the mighty (1 Cor 1:26-27)!
2. Let us pursue humility! Again, Andrew Murray said:

*And so the life of the saved ones, of the saints, must needs bear this stamp of deliverance from sin, and full restoration to their original state; their whole relation to God and man marked by an all pervading humility. Without this there can be no true abiding in God's presence, or experience of His favor and the power of His Spirit; without this no abiding faith, or love or joy or strength. Humility is the only soil in which the graces root; the lack of humility is the sufficient explanation of every defect and failure. Humility is not so much a grace or virtue along with others; it is the root of all, because it alone takes the right attitude before God, and allows Him as God to do all.*
3. Let us remember who is LORD of heaven and earth; regardless of what comes, let us say, like Jesus, *“Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.”*

4. Let us, in humility, offer God heartfelt worship and teachable, loving hearts, for His glory alone!

*Psalms 8:1-9 (KJV) To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. 2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. 3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. 6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: 7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; 8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. 9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!*

Amen!