

MATTHEW 11:25-28 – JESUS' PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INVITATION FOR US TO COME!

10/31/15 Sat Morn Prayer – ptwente@gmail.com

Mat 11:25-30 At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. [26] Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. [27] All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. [28] Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Biblical Background:

Jesus' Galilean ministry has been in full swing for a season. But He has seen much rejection, especially in the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum. Here are these so called religious leaders, filled with pride, arrogance, haughtiness, so ready to condemn; and yet so blind to the real truth of God. So caught up in politics and in the opinions of man, and yet so blind to God's truths. But in contrast, here are the simple ones; simple, helpless, defenseless, plain people, receiving the truth, rejoicing in the truth. And so Jesus offers a prayer of thanksgiving.

Mat 11:25a "At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,

- If you will look at the context you will not find that any person had asked Him a question, or that He was in conversation with any human being. Yet, we read, "At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth."
- When a man answers, he answers a person who has been speaking to him. Who, then, had spoken to Christ? -- **His Father!** Yet there is no record of it; and this should teach us that **Jesus had constant fellowship with His Father**, and that God spoke into His heart **so often, so continually**, that it was not a circumstance **singular enough to be recorded**.
- It was **the habit and life of Jesus to talk with God**. Even as Jesus was, in this world, so are we; let us **therefore learn the lesson** which this simple statement concerning Him teaches us. **May we likewise have silent fellowship with the Father, so that often we may answer Him**, and though the world would not know to whom we speak, may we be responding to that secret voice unheard of any other ear, **which our own ear, opened by the Spirit of God, recognizes with joy**.
- God has spoken to us, let us speak to God--**either to completely agree that God is true and faithful to His promise, or to confess the sin of which the Spirit of God has convinced us, or to acknowledge the mercy which God's providence has given, or to express agreement to the great truths which God the Holy Spirit has opened to our understanding**.
- What a **privilege is intimate communion with the Father of our spirits!** It is a secret hidden from the world, a **joy with which even the nearest friend cannot disturb**.
- If we would hear the whispers of God's love, our **ear must be purged and fitted to listen to His voice**. **This very day may our hearts be in such a state, that when God speaks to us, we, like Jesus, may be prepared at once to answer Him**.
- We sense a **strong note of joy** in Jesus' communication with His Father. The persons of the Trinity speak and commune with each other with joy.

Mat 11:25b "that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.

- Jesus was happy that God had chosen the unlikely - seen by the world as babes - to respond to His message of the kingdom. This should be seen in the larger context of the rising rejection of Jesus and His messengers starting in Matthew 9. It also **reminds us that if we do respond to Jesus, it is because the Father has revealed these things to babes like us**.

Mat 11:26 Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

- In other words, the sovereignty of God. You have **allowed some to be blind**, You've **opened the eyes of others**.
- Christ here subscribes to the will of His Father in this matter; **Even so**. Let God take what ways He pleases to glorify Himself, and **make us of what instruments He pleases** for the carrying on of His own work; His grace is His own, and He may give or withhold it as He pleases. We can give no reason why Peter, a fisherman, should be made an apostle, and not Nicodemus, a Pharisee, and a ruler of the Jews, though he also believed in Christ; but **so it seemed good in God's sight**. Christ said this in the hearing of His disciples, to show them that **it was not for any merit of their own** that they were thus dignified and distinguished, **but purely from God's good pleasure**; He made them to differ.

Mat 11:27b "Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

- **You cannot know God by searching**. You can't decide, I'm going to find God. Zophar said to Job, "*Who by searching can find out God to perfection?*" (Job 11:7) The truth is, you can't. **You can only know God as He is**

revealed. And as He reveals Himself to you. Now, God has revealed Himself to man in His Word. And yet, unless God has chosen to reveal Himself to you, you cannot know Him nor understand Him. Jesus is declaring, “Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him”.

- Since Jesus referred to Himself as the Son, we have another staggering self-focused statement from Jesus. Here He proclaimed that only He had a true relationship with God the Father, and that the Father could only be known through the Son (to whom the Son wills to reveal Him). These are astonishing self-claims.
- **There are no secrets between the Father and the Son.** There is no one who knows the Son as well as the Father does. There is no one who knows the Father as well as the Son does. The Son chooses to reveal the Father to some.
- There is an important difference in the way that the Son knows the Father, and the way we may know Him. **We know God the Father because He stoops low to us to make Himself known.** God the Son knows God the Father because They are equal in nature, completely compatible with one another.

Mat 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

- ***Come to me.*** - The cry of the New Covenant is the gentle word, “Come.” The Jewish law harshly said, “Go, take heed to your steps as to the path in which you shall walk. Break the commandments, and you shall perish; keep them, and you shall live.” The law was a dispensation of terror, **which drove men before it** as with a scourge; the **Gospel draws with bands of love.** Jesus is the good Shepherd going before His sheep, bidding them **follow Him**, and **ever leading them** onwards with the sweet word, “Come.” The law repels, the Gospel attracts. The law shows the distance which there is between God and man; the Gospel bridges that awful chasm, and brings the sinner across it.
- From the first moment of your spiritual life until you are ushered into glory, the language of Christ to you will be, **“Come, come to Me.”** As a mother puts out her hand to her little child and woos it to walk by saying, “Come,” even so does Jesus. He will always be ahead of you, **bidding you follow Him** as the soldier follows his captain. **He will always go before you to pave your way, and clear your path**, and you shall hear His animating voice calling you after Him all through life; while in the solemn hour of death, His sweet words with which He shall usher you into the heavenly world shall be—**“Come, you blessed of My Father.”**
- Additionally, this is not only Christ's cry to you, but, if you be a believer, **this is your cry to Christ—“Come! come!”** You will be **longing for His second coming.** You will be saying, **“Come quickly, even so come Lord Jesus.”** You will be **panting for nearer and closer communion with Him.** As His voice to you is “Come,” your response to Him will be, **“Come, Lord, and abide with me. Come, and occupy alone the throne of my heart; reign there without a rival, and consecrate me entirely to Your service.”**

SUMMARY:

- Is your habit and life as one of talking with God, so often and continually, that it could be said of us, “I answered” even when no singular event would have been recorded of the question?
- Are you thankful that when we do respond to Jesus, it is because the Father has revealed these things to babes like us?
- Are you thankful for His gentle command and offer, “Come to me”?
- Are we responding? Yes, come quickly, even so Lord Jesus! “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”!!!

Just As I Am...I Come, I come – Charlotte Elliott

*Just as I am—without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee—O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am—and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot—O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am—without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee—O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

Words: Charlotte Elliott, 1835 - Miss Elliott was visiting some friends in the West End of London, and there met the eminent minister, [César Malan](#). While seated at supper, the minister said he hoped that she was a Christian. She took offense at this, and replied that she would rather not discuss that question. Dr. Malan said that he was sorry if had offended her, that he always liked to speak a word for his Master, and that he hoped that the young lady would someday become a worker for Christ. When they met again at the home of a mutual friend, three weeks later, Miss Elliott told the minister that ever since he had spoken to her she had been trying to find her Savior, and that she now wished him to tell her how to come to Christ. **Just come to Him as you are**, Dr. Malan said. This she did, and went away rejoicing. Shortly afterward she wrote this hymn. [Sankey](#), p. 186

Evangelist Billy Graham said he was saved in 1934 in a revival meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, led by Mordecai Ham, after hearing Just As I Am. This became an altar call song in the Billy Graham Crusades in the latter half of the 20th Century. Graham also used it in the title of his 1997 book, Just As I Am: The Autobiography of Billy Graham.