

Rev. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church
Matthew 11:25-30 | Jesus' Gospel Presentation
Sunday December 3, 2023

WELCOME:

- Please turn your Bibles to Matthew 11.
- Bibles in the back—our gift to you.
- Notes are in the foyer. Take them home with you.

REVIEW:

Last Sunday, Jesus taught us about a heavy and controversial subject matter—

He taught us about judgment and a very real place called hell.

Now, Jesus didn't go all fire and brimstone.

He simply laid out the bare facts—the reality of judgment for sin that is due for those who refuse His offer of grace.

LW KEYPOINT 1:

The more we know about the Gospel and God's Word, the greater our responsibility (to share the Gospel) and the greater God's judgment (for those who refuse God's grace).

LW KEYPOINT 2:

The greatest mistake a person will ever make is thinking he will escape God's judgment.

And then I ended with **three truths about God's judgment:**

1. There will be a judgment.
2. There are degrees of punishment.
3. Indifference to God is the greatest of sins.

That's all a review from last week. That sermon is on the website/app.

INTRODUCTION:

Today, Jesus switches the topic.

He moves from the subjects of judgment and hell— to one of the greatest mysteries anyone can fathom.

The mystery of salvation.

We know that salvation is a gift of grace from God—by faith alone, by grace alone, through Christ alone—

But we also know that we as sinners, have a responsibility to accept and believe the Gospel message.

How are those two mysteries reconciled? Is it one more than the other?

Lastly, we'll see Jesus present the Gospel message and invite people unto salvation.

Today's passage is God's Gospel presentation through Jesus.

These are the most important words we'll ever hear.

Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 11:25— At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and revealed them to infants.

Matthew 11:26— Yes, Father, because this was your good pleasure.

Matthew 11:27— All things have been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son desires to reveal him.

Matthew 11:28— “Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:29— Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:30— For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

PRAY:

Blessed be the Lord!

Day after day he bears our burdens;

God is our salvation. (Psalm 68:19)

EXEGESIS:

Matthew 11:25— At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and revealed them to infants.

“At that time” is when seventy-two disciples returned from their mission trip.

Matthew doesn't mention this but Luke does.

These disciples are celebrating the success of the mission.

They did what we do today (apart from the miracles)—they shared Jesus day-by-day.

✝ **Luke 10:17**—The seventy-two, returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

✝ **Luke 10:18**—He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning."

✝ **Luke 10:19**—Look, I have given you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; nothing at all will harm you.

✝ **Luke 10:20**—However, don't rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

The book of Revelation talks about God having a book of life.

So if Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior, your name is in that book.

But according to Revelation 20:15, if your name is not in that book (last week)—there is also a book of death (not literal)—that person will be thrown into the lake of fire.

About book of life

Regardless, after saying these things, Jesus starts praying publicly.

✝ **Matthew 11:25**—...Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,

I mentioned last week how it's so fun how the OT and the NT are like hand in glove.

We see it again this week.

Jesus' prayer is similar to Daniel's prayer when King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream from God and no one could interrupt it.

→ disclose, bring to light, make fully known.

God only reveals this dream to Daniel...

+ **Daniel 2:19**—The mystery was then revealed to Daniel in a vision at night, and Daniel praised the God of the heavens

+ **Daniel 2:20**— and declared:
May the name of God
be praised forever and ever,
for wisdom and power belong to him.

+ **Daniel 2:21**— He changes the times and seasons;
he removes kings and establishes kings.
He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those
who have understanding.

+ **Daniel 2:22**— He reveals the deep and hidden things;
he knows what is in the darkness,
and light dwells with him.

+ **Daniel 2:23**— I offer thanks and praise to you,
God of my ancestors,
because you have given me
wisdom and power.
And now you have let me know
what we asked of you,
for you have let us know
the king's mystery. → revelation makes mysteries known.

Yes, indeed, the only way for anyone to know or understand God and His ways is if God chooses to reveal those things.

Matthew 11:25— Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,

Notice the first thing Jesus does in his prayer— is praise and glorify God the Father for His sovereignty.

Sovereignty:

God's absolute right to do anything and everything according to His good pleasure.

God is the Creator, and the entire cosmos runs according to His perfect and good will.

Matthew 11:25— ...Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things ...

Question: What are the "these things" ~~that the Heavenly Father?~~

Answer: The truth of the Gospel

Don't miss this!

Jesus is praising God the Father for His gift and control over salvation.

KEYPOINT 1:

Eternal life is solely a gift of grace from God.

↳ Salvation Heaven

Salvation is not a result of our effort to "find" the truth.

Salvation:

Deliverance from the power and effects of sin.

God makes it crystal clear that we, on our own, cannot and will not come to understand anything about God.

Salvation cannot be externally discovered—it is revealed by God.

Someone said, *The heart is the home of the gospel—not the head.* ⁺

The Gospel is not an intellectual exercise.

It's only by God's grace that God Himself personally reveals things to us.

This revelation is a gift.

In Scripture there are two types of revelation.

The first is called "General Revelation."

+ General revelation

God's witness of himself through the creation to his creatures.

~~In other words, all we have to do is look around and see God in creation.~~

+ ^{D NLT} **Psalm 19:1**—The heavens proclaim the glory of God.
The skies display his craftsmanship.

Illustration:

Radio interview.

But Jesus is not referring to General Revelation.

He is referring to personal revelation (specific revelation).

Personal revelation is the Gospel. —Aha! Moment

It's when a person repents from their sin and trusts in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Illustration: Paul Washer

So Jesus refers to this very personal revelation where God the Father has chosen and is now calling someone with this supernatural revelation of grace that only comes through His Son, Christ Jesus.

We saw the Father give Peter supernatural revelation on the identity of Jesus when Jesus asked, ***“Who do people say that I am?”***

Peter replied, ***“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”*** (Matt. 16:16).

What did Jesus say? *Wow, Pete your a smart guy.*

Jesus replied, ***“You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.”*** (Matt 16:17).



Matthew 11:25— ...Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent...”

Here we see God the Son, praise God the Father for hiding the Gospel from certain people.

Why would The Father hide the Gospel?

Because of people’s pride.

Proud people reject the Gospel because they already know everything there is to know about God.

People who are wise in their own eyes depend on man’s wisdom and ignore God’s.

These people include religious people.

These folks have already read God's Word, understand it using their own methods of interpretation and have created a religious system that excludes Jesus.

It also includes people who are wise from the world's perspective.

These folks have a very impressive resume according to the world's standards.

Unfortunately, because these folks put their faith in psychology, medicine, philosophy or science, they demand proof that only comes from their standards.

And because of their pride, Jesus praises The Father for...

Matthew 11:25— ... ^{*-The Gospel*} revealed them to infants.

Jesus thanks God the Father that the first step to salvation is humility.

A baby is totally dependent on his parents.

A baby has no abilities, no knowledge, no skills, no money help himself.

Infants—the sense of having childlike faith.

It is not an accident that the first beatitude is

Matthew 5:3—Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

The Kingdom of Heaven only belongs to humble people.

You can be smart and humble or not so smart and humble—but the key word is humility.

Only when God reveals our moral bankruptcy does God offer his grace to be saved. Why?

For we have all sinned and have fallen short of the glory (perfection) of God.
(Romans 3:23).

Jesus' illustration ^{- of ability} points to those who think they can save themselves by their own human wisdom, money, or resume and those who know they can't.

It compares those who rely on themselves and those who depend on God.

Salvation is only by grace alone, by faith alone, and through Christ alone.

Why? Because this is God's plan—and God's plan brings God glory.

Did you know that no where in Scripture does Scripture apologize for the plan of salvation?

Why's that? Because God never has to apologize for anything—His ways are always perfect and right.

Let me give you an illustration.

There is a man named Nicodemus.

Jesus gave Nick a huge complement.

He said, "You're the teacher of Israel,"— suggesting that he was the most highly respected rabbi in the nation. (John 3:10 ESV).

Yet, with all Nick's religious training and knowledge, he could not grasp Jesus's teaching that ***"unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"*** (John 3:3).

Even after Jesus explained it, Nicodemus still could not understand!

Nicodemus had to go all the way back and start over as a spiritual infant, putting aside his human knowledge and coming to Christ with no pride at all.

KEYPOINT 2:

God first chooses His people and we then respond to His call.

God gives a general revelation of Himself to everyone by means of the creation.

But God gives His personal revelation only to those He chooses.

We see all this played out as we study the Gospels.

The Father revealed the truth to the twelve Disciples, not the Scribes and Pharisees.

Now, many people say, "Wait a minute! Time out! That's not fair!"

They accuse God of being unjust.

But the reality is that every person deserves justice.

We all have sinned, and the perfect bar of justice demands that sin be paid for by spending eternity in a very real place called hell.

So, God never treats anyone unfairly by choosing some and passing on others.

He does give more to some people compared to others.

But that's called grace, not unjust or unfair.

Jesus revealed this grace in a parable called the Parable of the Vineyard workers in Matthew 20.

The vineyard owner hired some workers early in the morning, again at noon and then again in the late afternoon.

When it came to paying the workers, the folks in the morning received the same wage as those who only worked a few hours in the afternoon—and they complained.

We say the same thing—that's not fair.

And yet Jesus asked this question—

+ *Don't I have the right to do what I want with what is mine? Are you jealous because I'm generous?* (Matt. 20:15)

We see God's gifts and grace allocated unequally every single day.

Some people are smarter, taller, prettier, and have more money than others.

We may think this is unfair, but God is a God of variety.

God has predestined things to happen in our lives. *Romans 8:29-30*

- “Wait! Don't I determine my own destiny?”
- Aren't I the captain of my own ship?
- What about free will?!

The only free will we have as sinners is what kind of sin we choose.

+ **KEYPOINT 3:**
We don't choose God—God chooses us.
If we think we choose God—we steal God's glory. GRACE = Mercy
 The doctrine of salvation is offensive —unless *it's* true.

And if its true—it's the greatest gift we'll ever receive.

+ **Romans 9:14**—Are we saying, then, that God was unfair? Of course not!

Romans 9:15— For God said to Moses,
"I will show mercy to anyone **I choose**,
and I will show compassion to anyone **I choose**."

Romans 9:16— So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it.

If we object to God's mercy, we object to God's holiness and sovereignty.

God does as God pleases.

And one of the many things that pleases God is to hide some things from us.

Deuteronomy 29:29 NLT—The LORD our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us,

For example, we don't know how God created the universe—we just know He did. *Gen 1*

We don't know why God chose to make a covenant with Abraham, of all people, and Israel, of all nations.

We don't know why God chooses the elect and passes over others.

But what we do know is that what God does, He does for His glory.

And that's precisely where Jesus takes us next in His prayer.

Matthew 11:26— Yes, Father, because this was your good pleasure.

It's almost as if Jesus pauses here to linger on the Father's grace.

Think about it—The Father doesn't have to give anyone grace.

So Jesus takes delight in the Father's goodness and compassion for sinners.

+ **Matthew 11:27(a)**— All things have been entrusted to me by my Father.

What things? **[** All things—everything that we can see to everything we can't.

From the cosmos to the salvation of His disciples—all things.

Let's talk about the things we can see.

Scientists tell us the Milky Way galaxy is approximately 100,000 light years across.

So, traveling at the speed of light (186,000 miles per **[** second **]**) would take 100 million years just to get across the length of our galaxy.

How many galaxies are there? Between 100 and 200 billion!

And yet the Word of God says:

+ **Isaiah 48:13**—My own hand founded the earth,
and my right hand spread out the heavens;

—

+ **Isaiah 40:12 NLT**—Who else has held the oceans in his hand?
Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers?
Who else knows the weight of the earth
or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale?

+ **Isaiah 40:13 NLT**— Who is able to advise the Spirit of the Lord?
Who knows enough to give him advice **[** or teach him?

Isaiah 40:14 NLT— Has the Lord ever needed anyone's advice?
Does he need instruction about what is good?
Did someone teach him what is right
or show him the path of justice?

All those are rhetorical questions... *Reminds me of The Lord speaking to Job.*

Matthew 11:27(b)— No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son desires to reveal him.

In other words, no one would recognize Jesus as Lord and Savior if it were not for the grace and mercy of our Heavenly Father.

In the same way, no one recognizes the Father without the Son.

Jesus is sharing a profound mystery.

Keep in mind that Jesus is no ordinary rabbi praying to God.

Jesus is allowing us to eavesdrop on a conversation between the first and second persons of the Trinity.

We see a divine love between the Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Cyprian of Carthage was a bishop in North Africa.

He sat under Jerome and Augustine.

SLIDE:

He's famous for saying, "He cannot have God for his father, who has not the Church for his mother."

The same is true for Salvation.

SLIDE:

We cannot have God for our Heavenly Father, who has not Christ Jesus as his Savior.

We cannot come to God the Father in any way we want.

We must be invited by the Father's Son.

Matthew 11:27(b)— *No one knows the Son except the Father,*

Notice here that Jesus clearly equates Himself with God.

This is a reason why the Jews wanted to kill Jesus. (John 5:18).

In John 10:30, Jesus said "I and the Father are one."

The other side of this theological coin is also true.

Matthew 11:27(c)— *and no one knows the Father except the Son...*

In other words, "No one *truly* knows the Son except the Father, and no one *truly* knows the Father except the Son."

Matthew 11:27(d)— *... and anyone to whom the Son desires to reveal him.*

Reveal - bring to light, disclose, make the mystery known

So look what Jesus does next! He invites them!

Matthew 11:28— "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

This is a brand new message from the Lord Jesus.

He is no longer preaching to the nation, but to individuals.

He switches from repentance to an invitation of rest.

→ Jesus asked crowd

In other words, are you tired of carrying your burden of sin?

Are you exhausted thinking that you can come to God through man-made rules and religious activities?

So Jesus says, "Come to me!"

Notice what Jesus didn't say—

He didn't say, "Run to me."

Many times, we're so tired we can't run.

Or we've fallen down again and are struggling to even get up.

Jesus also didn't say, "Go to church, go serve the poor, go read a book, go get some counseling, or go get yourself fixed up."

No. He said, "Come to ME!"

This is Jesus' Gospel invitation.

It's an invitation to trust in Jesus personally, not to believe historical facts about him.

It's not about religion—it is about a saving relationship where He is Lord and you're His disciple.

Matthew 11:28(b)— "Come to Me (Jesus),

To come is believing that Jesus is Lord and Savior, died for your sins, and walked of His grave to prove it.

Comes and believes are similar to *hunger and thirst*.



Matthew 11:28(b)— “Come to me, all of you...”

Jesus invites *all*.

All means all.

The Gospel offer | of His grace | goes to *all*.

Wait, didn't you just say that God chooses His people? Yes.

But, the invitation is for everyone.

Among them, God will draw the chosen to himself.



Matthew 11:28— “Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened.”

Weary carries the idea of working to the point of utter exhaustion.

Burdened points to all the Jewish laws that the Scribes and Pharisees made up.

The person who is weary and burdened realizes, by God's grace, that he has zero ability to please God whatsoever.

He comes to the end of himself and turns to Christ.



Matthew 11:28— and I will give you rest.

-Promise!

Rest— literally, “I will rest you.”

I will give you a break from all your endless striving of trying to please God.

The picture here is that Jesus will refresh and revive someone from their long journey.

The long journey of what, exactly?

The long journey of unforgiveness.

Let me ask you—Has drinking brought you rest?

Has watching pornography brought you rest?

Has marriage brought you rest?

Has your education brought you rest?

Has working day and night?

Has climbing the corporate ladder brought you rest?

Has any of that stuff you keep buying—the house, the car, the home entertainment center, the hot tub, the box of Twinkies—brought you rest?

Is your retirement bringing you rest?—Or are you now restless than ever before?

We can't carry the weight of unforgiveness.

Our guilt before a holy God is a crushing burden.

In John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*, the lead character named "Christian" sets out from the City of Destruction. He carried an enormous weight on his back.

The only way to get that weight off his back was to lay it down at the foot of the cross.

As Jesus looked around at the people, he saw they were weighed down with guilt.

In His grace, Jesus said, "Come to Me."

Where else can we go with our guilt?

Who else can take our guilt away?

Is doing what you're doing working?

Matthew 11:29— Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Once again we have an OT allusion—

Moses said to Yahweh God...

Exodus 33:13 NLT— If it is true that you look favorably on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor. And remember that this nation is your very own people."

Moses is asking for revelation.
Exodus 33:14 NLT— The Lord replied, "I will personally go with you, Moses, and I will give you rest—

Matthew 11:29(a)— Take my yoke upon you...

Wait! Time out!

Do you know what a yoke is? It's an instrument for *work*.

In one breath Jesus is talking about rest and the very next He's talking about work —what's going on?

A yoke is a wooden frame placed upon someone's shoulders to make a load ~~or~~ ~~burden~~ easier to carry.

A yoke is designed to distribute the weight in equal proportions to both sides of the body.

~~Do you see the paradox here? "What yoke is comfortable, what burden light?"~~

Jesus doesn't promise an *escape* from reality—the problems of this life.

However, He does promise to provide the right *equipment* to deal with those problems and burdens.

He promises a yoke. A yoke!

The yoke is a metaphor for submission.

So the law became a burden but Jesus relieved the burden.

Jesus perfectly obeyed the law—and now offers His obedience to everyone who trusts in him.

Matthew 11:29(b)— ... and learn from me,

This is a Rabbi inviting His disciples to go to school.

As disciples of Jesus we are not only submissive to Him as Lord and Savior but we are to learn from Him.

A yoke symbolizes obedience, and Christian obedience includes learning from Christ.

That's why we read the Word of God by the Spirit of God from cover to cover, over and over.

+ **Matthew 11:29(c)**— because I am lowly (gentle) and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. — *Reiterates the promise*

I love whom Jesus invites (everyone).

But look what Jesus is inviting them to— “rest.”

Yeah, Jesus has already said that.

No...The rest here— is eternal rest.

SALVATION — rest from sin

+ **Matthew 11:30**— For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Here, Jesus gives us another paradox—there’s no such thing as an easy yoke and a light burden.

In contrast to the Scribes and Pharisees, Jesus' yoke is easy and His burden is light.

But make no doubt about it--Following Jesus is the hardest thing you will ever do.

But what’s the alternative?

+ **PREACH:**

PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

(Romans 11:33)

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