

# Giving Thanks for the Simplicity of the Gospel's Message

*Matthew 11:25-30*

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Introduction: "...It has seemed to me fit & proper that God should be solemnly, reverently, & gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart & one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, & also those who are at sea & those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart & observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving & praise to our beneficent Father Who dwelleth in the heavens" (Abraham Lincoln, 1863). Seventy-four years earlier, in 1789, George Washington made the first Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamation. This Thursday we, as a nation, will observe a national day of Thanksgiving. It is good for us to be reminded of the special significance of this day (such as in the words of Washington & Lincoln). The day was originally intended as more than just a day off from work, a huge feast with friends & relatives, & the enjoyment of a football game. Thanksgiving is, of course, not to be limited to one day in November, but rather is to be the constant theme & attitude of the believer. The life of Christ offers us several examples of stated thankfulness. For what did Jesus give thanks? Here in the book of Matthew we find Him giving thanks for: (1) the simplicity of the Gospel's message, (2) the sufficiency of God's provision, & (3) the salvation through Golgotha's cross. Our attention this morning is directed to the first of these occasions, as we consider Christ's prayer, His purpose, & His promise concerning the simplicity of the Gospel's message. Please note with me that the rest of salvation is available to all who come to Christ!

## I. Christ's **prayer** concerning the simplicity of the Gospel's message (:25-26)

### A. Concerning **restriction** of the Gospel message (:25a)

#### 1. Who is Christ speaking to?

- a. "*O Father*" – note the Father/Son relationship (our pattern as well? Mat. 6:9); giving thanks for mercies received, seen as coming from a Father's hand. (cf. Col. 1:12)
- b. "*Lord of heaven & earth*" – note the Sovereign God's rulership (cf. Mat. 6:9-10); in recognition of the Father's rule & reign over all.

Summary: We come to Him as our Father with confidence (Heb. 4:16); & yet we come to Him as our Sovereign Lord with reverence & godly fear (Ps. 89:7).

#### 2. Who is Christ speaking about?

- a. "*Wise & prudent*" (both of these can be misused or perverted through pride – Rom. 1:22).
  - (1) "*Wise*" – human wisdom & knowledge (even head knowledge of "religious" truth).
  - (2) "*Prudent*" – understanding, intelligent.

#### b. "*Hast hid*"

- (1) Hidden because they did not apply the truth to their heart & soul. They might have said that His teaching was over their heads, when in fact it was over their hearts. They were not open or receptive to the Gospel message (cf. I Cor. 1:17-18).
- (2) Hidden because of their preoccupation with the natural (earthly things), leaving these wise & prudent ones unable to recognize the supernatural (spiritual things).

### B. Concerning **revelation** of the Gospel message (:25b-26)

#### 1. The illustration: "*babes*" – used of infants.

- a. Those who cannot speak; they are dependent upon others.
- b. Those who have child-like simplicity & faith. The gospel is revealed to babes, because they delight in Christ's teaching. Like little children, they are humble, honest, & hungry.

#### 2. The implication:

- a. We can not all become wise & intelligent, but we all, by God's grace, can become babes.
- b. God has chosen to reveal His wisdom to those who have trusted Him & withheld His wisdom from those who reject Him. [Note on vs. 26: What pleases God ought to please us!]

## II. Christ's **purpose** concerning the simplicity of the Gospel's message (:27)

### A. His reception from the Father:

1. The **commission** of Christ – His **priority**.
  - a. Compare I John 4:14 with Luke 19:10.
  - b. Consider John 3:16-17.
2. The **command** of Christ – His **authority**.
  - a. See Matthew 28:18 & John 17:2 (cf. Acts 2:36).
  - b. See John 3:35; 5:22; 13:3 (& cf. I Cor. 15:27).

### B. His revelation of the Father:

1. He reveals the Father's **Person** –
  - a. John 1:1-3 & :14.
  - b. Matthew 1:23 (& cf. Isa. 7:14).
2. He reveals the Father's **plan** –
  - a. In order to know the Father's *will* > see John 6:38-40; 7:17; Heb. 10:7, 9 & Eph. 5:17 – We know the will of God by the Word of God (both the Living & the written Word).
  - b. In order to do the Father's *work* > see John 17:4, "*finish the work...*"; I Thess. 1:3; II Thess. 1:9-10. How? Hebrews 13:20-21.

## III. Christ's **promise** concerning the simplicity of the Gospel's message (:28-30)

### A. For salvation rest (:28) [Peace with God – Romans 5:1]

1. The invitation > "*Come unto Me,...*"
  - a. Christ sees no contradiction between God's sovereignty (His electing grace) & man's responsibility (his inviting to be saved).
  - b. Christ invites us as our Priest (to be saved by Him), as our Prince (to be ruled by Him), & as our Prophet (to be taught by Him).
  - c. Christ's invitation can be compared to Revelation 22:17, "*And the Spirit & the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*"
2. The identification > "*all ye that labour...*" (toil; active effort to perform difficult & painful duties – "*heavy-laden*" – passive endurance).
  - a. Those spiritually **burdened** – Mt. 23:4 (& physically enslaved, Jn. 8:34, I Cor. 6:9-11).
  - b. Those spiritually **blinded** – II Cor. 4:4-5; Jn. 9:39-41.
  - c. Those spiritually **bankrupt** – Rom. 6:23a; Lk. 18:9-14.
3. The illumination > "*and I will give you rest*" (from your toil & guilt).
  - a. Rest from the **penalty** of sin – Rom. 8:1 (No condemnation) – see also Rom. 6:23 & Eph. 2:8-9.
  - b. Rest from the **power** of sin – Rom. 8:12-15 (No domination).
  - c. Rest from the **presence** of sin – Rom. 8:35-39 (No separation).

Conclusion: So we see that the rest of salvation is made possible to all who rely upon Christ. Have you heard Christ's prayer this morning (:25-26)? Have you considered Christ's purpose (:27)? Have you received Christ's promise (:28)? Can you point to a time in your life when you acknowledged that you were burdened, blinded, & bankrupt spiritually? And at that moment you came to realize that if you were to be saved, it would have to be Christ, & Christ alone? Did you then confess yourself to be a hopeless, helpless, hell-bound sinner & claim Christ's substitutionary death on the cross for your sins as your only hope of salvation? Are you trusting solely & completely in His finished work on the cross of Calvary, His shed blood as the only payment for sin, & His victorious resurrection as God's approval that salvation's plan is done? Though you may not have recognized all these terms at that decisive moment in your life, do you know for sure that you repented of your sins & by faith received Christ as your personal Savior? Is that your testimony here this morning? If not, why not make it so today? Remember, salvation rest is given to all who trust Christ!