

**Matthew 11:25-27:** 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; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

**Intro:** In Matthew 11, we’ve seen John the Baptist struggle with doubts & questions about the true identity of Jesus. We’ve seen Jesus report evidence to John’s disciples showing **Who He is**, the Messiah, the LORD & God that John prepared the way for. **Who is Jesus?** Is the most important question we could ever ask & answer. The evidences Jesus gave to John’s disciples were many of the mighty works He had been doing. But many still didn’t believe but rejected Jesus! Last time, we saw Jesus give stern warnings to people who had seen His many mighty works & yet still did not believe. In light of all of this, we might ask the question, “Who then will believe?!”

**John 3:16; Acts 13:48:** when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

### **1. Jesus Thanks And Praises His Father, Who Is LORD Of All**

**Matthew 11:25:** At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth”

**a. Jesus thanks: 1 Thess. 5:18:** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**b. Jesus calls God His Father: John 5:17-18:** But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." <sup>18</sup> This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

**c. Jesus taught us to call God our Father (The Lord’s Prayer): Robert H. Stein:** Yet, with the coming of Jesus Christ, the Fatherhood of God is emphasized to a much greater degree than in the Old Testament: "A third unique feature of Jesus' teaching concerning the Fatherhood of God is that the frequency of this metaphor is out of all proportion to what we find elsewhere in the Old Testament and other Jewish literature. (165 times in 4 Gospels; 245 total; compared to only 15 times in the entire Old Testament!)

**J. I. Packer:** Adoption is the highest privilege that the gospel offers: higher even than justification . . . To be right with God the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is greater.

**Kevin DeYoung:** Jesus wants us to call the God of the universe; the God Who made the world out of nothing; the God Who calls all of the trillions of stars out by name; the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the God of the ten plagues and the parting of the Red Sea; the God of the glory cloud filling the tabernacle; the God who shakes the cedars of Lebanon; the God Who showed Himself to Daniel as the Ancient of Days; the God before Whom no one can stand face to face and live! Jesus wants us to call this God, Father!

**d. Jesus adores His Father as LORD and sovereign over all: Psalm 135:6:** Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

- **Proverbs 21:1:** The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

- **Eph. 1:11:** predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will

### **2. What Are The “These Things” That Are Hidden?**

**Matthew 11:25:** 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”

These things are the things about the identity of Jesus Christ as the God-Man Messiah Who was doing the many mighty works that should have led all of these people and cities to believe in Him! These things are the things about the Kingdom of God: the things of Christ, of His Person, of His work, of His Kingdom, of His Gospel!

John the Baptist sent disciples to ask Jesus: "Are you the one?" Jesus is the One! Jesus is the "these things!"

**Verse 27:** All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one **knows the Son** except the Father, and no one **knows the Father** except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

### **3. God The Father Has Hidden The Saving Knowledge Of God From The Wise And Understanding**

**Matthew 11:25:** 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 . . ."

**a. The wise and understanding are the Jewish leaders, like the Pharisees, who have great knowledge of Scripture, are wise in their own eyes, but do not know God or recognize Jesus Christ:** They worshiped God with their lips but their hearts were far from God!

**Shai Linne:** Love for doctrine is not the same thing as love for Jesus. (And if you say: "I love Jesus!" my next question will be: "Who is Jesus?" And as soon as you answer that question, you are doing doctrine!)

**1 Peter 5:5:** God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

**b. God the Father has hidden the saving knowledge of God from them: Mark Dever:** It is good and right to thank God for His justice against those who reject His Messiah.

- **Mark 4:10-12:** those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, so that 'they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.'"

- **Proverbs 16:4:** The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

- **1 Peter 2:7-9:** the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," & "A stone of stumbling, & a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

- **Romans 9:13-24:** As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." <sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! <sup>15</sup> For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." <sup>16</sup> So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. <sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." <sup>18</sup> So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. <sup>19</sup> You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" <sup>20</sup> But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" <sup>21</sup> Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honored use and another for dishonorable use? <sup>22</sup> What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, <sup>23</sup> in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory - <sup>24</sup> even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

**Westminster Confession Of Faith (Chap. 3):** As God hath appointed the elect unto glory, so hath He, by the eternal and most free purpose of His will, foreordained all the means thereunto. Wherefore, they who are elected . . . are effectually called unto faith in Christ by His Spirit working in due season, are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by His power, through faith, unto salvation. Neither are any other redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved, but the elect only. The rest of mankind God was pleased, according to the unsearchable counsel of His own will, whereby He extendeth or withholdeth mercy, as He pleaseth, for the glory of His Sovereign power over His creatures, to pass by; and to ordain them to dishonour and wrath for their sin, to the praise of His glorious justice. **GOSPEL!**

#### **4. God The Father Has Revealed The Saving Knowledge Of God To Little Children**

**Matthew 11:25:** 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”

**a. The little children are those who are utterly dependent on God – they wholly trust in God:** These are Jesus’ disciples: **Acts 4:13:** Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

**b. God the Father has revealed the saving knowledge of God to them: Acts 16:14:** One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

- **John 5:21:** For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.

- **John 6:37:** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

- **John 6:44:** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.

- **John 6:65:** This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.

- **John 17:9:** I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.

**UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION:** God, from before the foundation of the world, chose those whom He would save, not based on anything they have done or would do in the future and not based on anything He would foresee them doing in the future and not based on their free will to choose Him, but based only on His love and sovereign will to choose them first.

- **Ephesians 1:3-5:** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will

- **Romans 8:29-30:** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

#### **5. God The Father Hides And Reveals Saving Truth To Whom He Chooses Because It Is His Gracious Will**

**Matthew 11:26:** yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

**Deuteronomy 7:6-8:** The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup> but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers

**Geerhardus Vos:** The reason God will never stop loving you is that He never began.

- He never started loving you because He always has loved you! He's loved you for eternity past! He loves you now! And He'll love you forever! There never was a time when He did not love you!

- **Jeremiah 31:3:** I have loved you with an everlasting love.

#### **6. The Father Has Handed Over All Things To The Son**

**Matthew 11:27:** All things have been handed over to me by my Father

**William Hendricksen:** “All things” necessary for the carrying out of the mediatorial task have by the Father been entrusted to the Son. What things? From the preceding chapters it has already become clear that Jesus, the Father’s Son, has received authority over Satan and demons; over human ailments and handicaps, winds and waves, body and soul, life and death, his own disciples and all other people, to save them and to judge them.

**John 3:35:** The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.

### **7. The Son And The Father Have A Very Special Relationship**

**Matthew 11:27:** and no one knows the Son except the Father and no one knows the Father except the Son

Jesus, God the Son, & His Father, God the Father, have a special relationship: They & the Spirit are the one God!

- **John 14:9:** Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

- **John 10:27-33:** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one." <sup>31</sup> The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. <sup>32</sup> Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" <sup>33</sup> The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."

**William Hendricksen:** So great and so glorious is the heart of this Mediator that none but the Father can fathom its riches of knowledge, wisdom, and love. The very fact that the word "Son" is now used – not "me" – shows that what is being revealed here is the inner relation between Father and Son, a relation that existed from all eternity.

**Colossians 2:2-3, 9-10:** Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge . . . <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

### **8. The Son Also Sovereignly Reveals The Father To Whom He Pleases**

**Matthew 11:27:** and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Jesus began our text today, praising His Father for hiding and revealing saving truth to whomever He pleases. Here we see Jesus has this same power and authority of the Father: to reveal saving truth to whomever He pleases!

**Objection:** It's not fair that God chooses to hide truth from some and reveal it to others. God is not obligated to open anyone's eyes to the truth. All have sinned. All have rebelled against God. All deserve hell.

**Objection:** If God chooses who will be saved and who won't be saved, then why evangelize? Because God has ordained the ends (who will be saved) and the means by which they will be saved (prayer, evangelism, love).

### **Read Olney Baptist Church Statement Of Faith: Of God's Purpose Of Grace**

How can we enjoy all of this grace & mercy from God our Father? Because on that cross, all of God's grace & mercy was hidden from Jesus as He bore the fullness of God's wrath, curse, & judgment so that we might be saved!

Christ Jesus Gives God Thanks For His Sovereign Will Election  
His Father Hides Salvation From The Worldly Wise Complexion  
And Reveals The Saving Truth To The Humble Child Connection  
It's The Father's Gracious Will To Make This Grand Selection  
He Predestines Everyone To Heaven's Bliss Or Hell's Utter Rejection  
To Save From This Dread Horror He Sent Christ In True Perfection  
Loving, Living, Serving In Holy, Pure, Subjection  
Suffered God's Full Wrath, From His Presence Faced Ejection  
Forsaken, Died, And Buried, What Seemed Total Dejection  
But Then He Rose Alive, Conquered Death Through Resurrection  
All Things Belong To Him, He's Our All And Full Protection  
For He Has Chosen Us To Be His Own And Give Direction  
He's Our Joy And Satisfaction Who Owns All Our Deep Affection!