

Greetings:

The study that Pastor Pat brings on Sunday mornings is a reflection of the study for that week. It represents a lot of research. Not all of what he has prepared is communicated. In an attempt to continue the learning process, he is making available his study notes to the congregation.

These notes are edited, but not “book” ready. To the critical eye, mistakes can possibly be found. Therefore, he asks that you take the material with humility, teach-ability, and charity.

Enjoy and if you should have any questions or corrections, please do not hesitate to email him at pastorpat@waukeshabible.org.

Date: December 23, 2018

Sermon Title: Come to Me

Sermon Series: Matthew

Text: Matthew 11:25-30

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Text: Matt. 11:25-30
Theme: Only in Jesus can anyone find their rest from sin and death.

Introduction:

“There are only a handful of toys that last more than a generation. But the Rubik's cube, which celebrates its 40th birthday, now joins the likes of Barbie, Play-Doh, Lego and the Slinky, as one of the great survivors in the toy cupboard.

What makes its success all the remarkable is that it did not start out as a toy. The Rubik's cube was invented in 1974 by Erno Rubik, a Hungarian architect, who wanted a working model to help explain three-dimensional geometry. After designing the “magic cube” as he called it (twice the weight of the current toy), he realized he could not actually solve the puzzle. The more he moved the colored squares, the more mixed up they became. ‘It was a code I myself had invented!’ he wrote. ‘Yet I could not read it.’ The cube, made up of nine colored squares on each side, can be rearranged in 43 quintillion different ways. That is 43,000,000,000,000,000,000 [43 with 18 zeros]. After a month, and using a method of rearranging the corners of each side first, he finally solved the puzzle.

The current world record is held by Mats Valk, a Dutch teenager, who managed to solve it in 5.55 seconds. Robots, however, been able to solve the Rubik’s cube even more quickly. The Cubestormer III robot built from Lego kits and powered by a Samsung Galaxy S2 smartphone solved it in 3.25 seconds in March this year.”¹

This passage [i.e. sovereignty of God vs. freewill of humanity; election; etc.] and season of the year [i.e. incarnation; God becoming man; hypostatic union; virgin birth; etc.] are one of those Scriptural “Rubik’s cubes.” It is a perplexing puzzle because it forces three conclusions of which none of them are received very well by the natural man. Let us note initially three things this passage tells us.



There is a parallel reading of this text in Luke 10:21-23. It matches our passage in Matthew except for the context.

Outline:

I. First, **God the Father is Lord of Heaven and Earth (v. 25a).**

Someone or something is calling the shots in life and it isn't you and me. Whatever this passage might be saying, it is definitely saying you and I are not in control. It is this same absolute and unwavering power that is transferred to the Son and then through the Son to His Church (Matt. 28:18).

Throughout Matthew's Gospel, there is an intentional transfer of authority from the Father to the Son and then through the Son to His church (v. 25; Cf. Matt. 6:9; 24:35; 28:18).

II. **Second, you and I cannot know God independent of His movement (v. 25b).**

This passage speaks of God hiding and God revealing Himself to people. This, to us, does not make any sense. Yet, unless and until He reveals Himself or the Son reveals Him to us no one anywhere at any time can know Him. As Creator, He may do what He wants with what is His and what He does is always right.

This text, like many in the Gospel of John, celebrates and unveils the Father | Son relationship. Notice several interesting statements made by Jesus.

- I thank you (v. 25)
- You have hidden and you have revealed (v. 25).
- You have a gracious will (v. 26). Whatever is going on here is an expression of the Father's gracious will.
- All things have been handed over to me by my Father (v. 27). No one knows the Father except those to whom the Son makes Him known.

The Son of God sits under the God the Father and does as He directs. It is a mystery inside of the Trinity that and do not and cannot fully understand. It is something we can describe without knowing what it is.

To whom does the Son make the Father known? To the "little children, those who are weary and heavy laden."

III. **Third, unless and until we find ourselves as little children who are weary and heavy laden with the weight of our own sin before God, we cannot know His glorious person and sufficient work.**

This glorious good news is hidden from the wise and intelligent and given to the little children who are the weary and heavy laden.

"Jesus praises the Father "not that the sophoi were ignorant, but that the nêpioi knew" (McNeile)." [RWP, v. 26]

Those who are self-righteous and unwilling to see Jesus as the Savior King are lost and will never find the rest that only Jesus can provide and give. "The wise and the learned are the scribes and the Pharisees, the official guardians of Israel's wisdom. Paul speaks disparagingly of the 'scholars' and 'skillful debaters of this world,' noting that according to the Scripture, God will 'destroy the wisdom of the wise and set aside the understanding of the scholars' (1 Cor. 1:19, 20)."²

None of the above three thoughts are really good news to the independent, self-reliant, and can do individual. The good news of the gospel always begins with “you can’t.”

Let me clarify this for a moment. The issue at stake is not whether you can change your own oil, balance your own financial records, or sew your own clothes. The issue is not in the horizontal, but in the vertical. The issue is whether or not you can or cannot save yourself from sin and death. The issue is whether or not you can answer for your own sins before a Holy and Just God. That is the one issue the gospel addresses and only the gospel can address. And unfortunately, in our natural state we chaff against and rebel against God’s provision in the person and work of Jesus. This is the Christmas Message. We get this Christmas thing so twisted that it becomes what has become common nomenclature to refer to the present state of public news as, “Fake news” regardless of what side of the political debate you stand.

We have spun the historical and scriptural event in so far that we make much of merry making, feasting, giving, and kindness that we have no idea as to what drove this expression in the first place. Jesus has taken His place right alongside of Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, and the Grinch who stole Christmas. And as good as many of our historical Christmas movies are, they are void of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Why are these three things so difficult to accept?

- First, we think we are Lords of the heavens and the earth.
- Second, we think we can know truth intuitively and the idea of absolute truth is troubling for us.
- Finally, we think we can do whatever is necessary by and for ourselves without the help of others. We do not believe we need any divine intervention. We believe if we are to save ourselves it must be by our own effort.

This brings me to “Christmas.” This season exists because you and I are incapable and unable to save ourselves from sin and death. This thought chaffs the natural man, but for those who feel and sense and know the depth and darkness of their sin before God, this is truly good news.

How do you know if you are one of the “little children?”

Well, are you tired and weary of this life and fearful of the next?

If so, do I have good news for you!

We will note just two thoughts.

First, **His Birth**

- “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for **he shall save his people from their sins**” (Matt. 1:21).

- ⁵ “They said to him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: ⁶ ‘AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; **FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.**’” (Matt. 2:5, 6).
- “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus” (Luke 1:31).
 - Mary’s Declaration - Luke 1:47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
 - Zechariah’s Declaration – Luke 1:67-79.
 - An Angel of the Lord - Luke 2:10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
 - Simeon’s Declaration – Luke 2:25-32.
 - Anna’s Declaration – Luke 2:36-38.

Second, **The writings of JOHN**

John’s Declaration

- “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world**” (John 1:29).
- “And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, **Behold the Lamb of God!**” (John 1:36).
- ¹⁴ “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; ¹⁵ **so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.** ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that **He gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ **For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him**” (John 3:14-17).
- “And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know **that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world**” (John 4:42).
- “And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: **for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world**” (John 12:47).
- “And we have seen and do testify that **the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world**” (1 John 4:14).

God only reveals Himself to those who are like little children. Jesus can only be known by those who are weary and heavy-laden. Perhaps you remember from our previous study how . . .

- You cannot win until you lose.
- You cannot move forward until you fall backward.

- You cannot live until you die.
- You cannot gain until you give.
- You cannot be gloriously saved until you are thoroughly lost.

- Unless and until you confess your own inability, your own brokenness, until you own your shame, you cannot find Jesus to be enough in this life and in the life to come.

Only those who see themselves as weary and heavy-laden can come to Jesus for the rest from sin and death that only He can give.

Today and tonight and every day, the people of WBC celebrate and proclaim that Jesus is both Savior and Lord. Today is a great day and Jesus is the best gift anyone can give and receive. Have you? Will you?

¹ <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/google/10840482/Rubiks-cube-invention-40-years-old-and-never-meant-to-be-a-toy.html>_ Dec. 14, 2018

² Mounce, Matthew, 107.