

# THE MYSTERIES OF THE GOSPEL

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MATTHEW 11:25-26 • TV194B

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By  
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## **Matthew 11:25-26**

*“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.”*

I would like for you to turn in your Bible today, to the **Book of Matthew chapter 11**. I am going to read and speak from **verse 25 of Matthew 11**.

Here is our subject: **“THE MYSTERIES OF THE GOSPEL.”**

The Scripture calls the Gospel a mystery, *“the mystery of godliness, the mysteries of things revealed.”* I am speaking on: **“THE MYSTERIES OF THE GOSPEL”** which are hidden and which are revealed.

Listen to the text, this is the Master speaking; He says in verse **25-26 of Matthew 11**, *“At that time Jesus answered and said; I thank thee O Father, Lord, (Sovereign), of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and the prudent, (from the wise and the clever, the worldly-wise), and thou hast revealed these things unto babes. Even so Father, for it seemed good in thy sight.”*

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Now, my friends, when our Lord appeared on this earth in the flesh, when Jesus Christ came into the world, though He came on the most gracious and merciful, heavenly business, Paul said; this business was to save, *“Jesus Christ is come into this world to save sinners.”*

Our Lord said Himself, *“the Son of man is come to seek and to save the lost.”* Christ came to die for sinners, Paul said, *“Of whom I am chief.”*

Now, though He came on the most gracious and merciful, heavenly business, and though He was Himself without blame, holy without sin, the Scripture says; *“He knew no sin.”*

Even Pilate before that throng crying for His blood, Pilate said; *“I find no fault in Him, I find no fault in Him,”* though He was holy and without blame.

And though men acknowledged that He came from God, Nicodemus said; *“we know that you are a teacher come from God. No man could do the miracles that you do except God be with Him.”*

Though He healed the sick and though He performed innumerable acts of kindness and love, He was hated. The Scripture says, *“He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.”*

He was rejected, He was despised, *“we esteemed Him not, and there was no beauty that we should desire Him.”* He found many enemies. In fact, everybody that was anybody, turned thumbs down on Jesus Christ. He found many enemies and few friends.

Our Lord was especially hated by those high in religious circles; you know that. He was especially hated by the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Sanhedrin, the Scribes, and even the high priest.

These men who were noted for their theology, noted for their doctrines and their knowledge of morality and tradition, these men who carried on the ceremonies in the so-called house of God, but despised Jesus Christ. They sought on every hand to trap Him, to ensnare Him, to turn the people against Him. They despised Him.

Then, He was especially hated by those in political power and great national power. They began to say, *“Well, can any good thing come out of Nazareth, that little burg, that little village, that poverty stricken pocket? Can anything good come out of that place?”*

Our Lord was rejected by the wealthy, by the influential. Our Lord asked this question, *“How hardly shall they that have great riches enter into the kingdom of God?”*

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Those who came to Him were sinners. Those who gathered about Him were the needy, the unlearned, the unloved, and the obscure persons. He was called “*the friend of sinners.*” Our Lord was kind and merciful to sinners.

He associated with men whom other men abhorred. He said, “*I’m not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. The well have no need of a physician but they that are sick.*” The Pharisees said, “*Look at Him, He’s gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.*”

One day the Pharisees asked His disciples, “*Why does your Master eat with Publicans and sinners?*” It was because the others rejected Him, because they despised Him, because they turned their backs on Him.

He didn’t turn His back on them; our Lord never turned His back on any man. They turned their backs on Him. Let’s put the blame for our misery where it belongs. Christ said, “*You will not come to me that you might have life.*”

One day He said, “*O Jerusalem, O Jerusalem, how oft would I gather you to myself as a hen doth gather her brood but you would not.*” That is where the blame belongs.

The high and mighty, the wise and clever, the political powers, the religious powers, all turned thumbs down on Jesus Christ. They turned their backs on Jesus Christ. They cried for His death.

He did not turn His back on them. Let’s put the blame for the misery of men where it belongs. God says, “*I have called, and you refused.*” God says, “*I stretched forth my hand, you would not; therefore, when your fear cometh, I will laugh. You will seek me and shall not find me. You will call upon me and I shall not hear.*”

However, our Lord shall not fail on His mission of mercy. Our Lord shall not fail on His redemptive road. God will have a people. Heaven will be populated. The Gospel of Jesus Christ will be believed. Heaven will resound with songs of praise for the grace of our loving Lord.

That is what our Lord is rejoicing about right here. At that time, at that time, “*Jesus lifted his eyes toward heaven and said Father, Lord of heaven and earth, (the Sovereign King); thou hast hid these things, thou hast hid these things from the wise and the prudent (clever), but thou hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father, it seemed good in Thy sight.*”

Now, I want us to look at this statement carefully. What is our Lord saying here? I want to divide it into five parts so it will help you understand it and help you retain it:

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First of all: What are these things that the Lord is talking about when He says, “*Lord; you’ve hid these things from the wise and the prudent (cleaver, the worldly-wise), you have hid these things.*” What are these things which are hidden?

Secondly: Where are they hidden; in what sense are they hidden?

Thirdly: From whom are they hidden?

Fourthly: How is the knowledge of these things to be obtained?

Somebody is going to hear it. Somebody is going to believe it. Somebody is going to lay hold upon it. Somebody is going to embrace it.

God is going to have a people. The Lord God shall not fail. Christ did not suffer in vain. Though the rich and the wealthy, the influential, the powerful, and the religious say “*no I will not have this man reign over us.*” We will not submit to Him. We will not bow into subjection to Him. We will not have Jesus Christ and we will have our own way of religion.

They may say that but Christ will have a people, the poor, the despised, the halt, the lame and the blind. “*Go out and call them, He said; compel them to come in that my house may be full.*”

Fifthly: To who are these things, these things revealed?

Now, let’s take them one at a time:

First of all: What are these things?

Our Lord said, “*I thank thee Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hid these things from the wise and the prudent.*” What are these things?

In general, these things are the things that pertain to salvation. These things are the things that pertain to eternal life. These are the things that pertain to a relationship with God, a true relationship with God.

Christ accused those of His day; this is what He said, “*You neither know me nor my Father.*” He says, “*If I tell you earthly things, you don’t understand. How can you understand, how can you believe, if I tell you heavenly things?*”

The apostle Paul said, “*Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither hath it entered the heart of man, the things God has prepared for them that love Him. But, God hath revealed them unto us by his spirit. Neither hath it entered the heart of man these things that God hath prepared.*”

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That is what I am talking about. These things here are the things pertaining to salvation, eternal life, and a relationship with God. It is evident from Scripture and it is evident from experience and it is evident from history that the natural man knows little or nothing of God.

Oh, he has a god, a god of his own imagination, a god of nature, a god that he has whittled out with his own pen-knife. He has a god and an idea of god but it is *“not according to knowledge.”* He is ignorant of spiritual matters. He is ignorant of a true knowledge of God.

Jesus Christ said, *“Eternal life is to know the living God.”* David said, *“As the hart panteth for the water brook, so panteth my soul after the living God.”* *“These things are hidden from the wise and prudent.”*

Now, that is in general. These things in particular, are the truths and doctrines which pertain to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

They hated Christ and rejected Him for the things which He taught. They didn't hate Christ because He healed the sick, because He raised the dead or because He fed the hungry. They didn't hate Him for these things.

He said, *“Many good works have I done among you, for which of these do you stone me?”* They said, *“We are not stoning you for good works, we are stoning you because you are a man and you say you are God.”*

Oh, that's the problem! He is God Almighty. Do you believe that? Jesus Christ is God Almighty, He said; *“I and My Father are one.”* He said, *“He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.”* He said, *“No man knoweth the Father but the Son and he to whom the Son will reveal him.”*

God said to the Son, *“Thy throne O God is forever.”* Paul said, *“Feed the church of God which God purchased with His own blood.”* These things, the deity of Christ are hid *“from the wise and the prudent.”*

The deity of Christ: What about His Sovereign grace and His Sovereign power? When He was down in Nazareth He told the people that He would show mercy, *he would be gracious to whom he would.”*

Why, He said when there was a great famine over the land of Israel; there were many widows without food. God didn't feed a one of them. He fed a Gentile woman. There were many lepers but God didn't heal a one. He did heal a Gentile by the name of Naamam.

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They rose up in anger and would have killed Him; they would have thrown Him off of a cliff, simply because He said; “sovereign mercy; mercy is sovereignty given, grace is sovereignty given.”

It is not mercy if it is earned. It is not mercy if it is bought. It is not mercy if it is owed; it is mercy if it is sovereignly given.

When a man casts himself on the mercy of the court, he is casting himself upon the sovereign mercy of the judge. The judge doesn't have to free him. He doesn't have to pardon him. He doesn't have to parole him; he will do it if he wills. That is what the leper said to Christ; “*Lord, if you will, you can make me clean (make me whole).*” But, “*these things are hidden.*”

Not only that, but the new birth. Our Lord talked to Nicodemus about being born again, he said; “*how can this be?*” Here is a master in Israel. Here is a student of the Scriptures. Here is a theologian, a graduate theologian.

Here is a man, old, up in years, who has been leading and teaching people religion all of his life, and Christ talks to him about the simple matter of regeneration, the simple matter of the new birth, the simple matter of the awakening of a sinner, the creation of a new heart, and he says; “*what, do I go back into my mother's womb and be born again?*”

Our Lord said, “*Nicodemus, are you a master in Israel and you don't know that, you don't know anything about the new birth?*”

These things are hid. The nature of faith is unknown. He said to them; “*Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.*” They began to look around saying, “*How can this man give us his flesh to eat? (We are not cannibals. We are not supposed to drink blood). How can we drink His blood?*”

They didn't understand the nature of faith, of receiving Christ into the heart, like I receive food into my mouth. It goes into my belly and is digested and sent into all parts of my body. It nourishes me and strengthens me and gives me life, by that which I put within.

So, when I receive Christ by faith in my heart, He nourishes my whole being. They didn't understand that. They didn't understand the depravity and the inability of man. He accused them of being sinners.

They said, “We are not sinners, we are not sinners. We don't do anything wrong. We don't steal and we don't kill.”

Christ said, “*Let me tell you something; you have heard it said by them of old times, thou shalt not kill, to hate a man in your heart is to be guilty of murder.*”

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You see, that is where sin is born. That is where it begins and that is where it is nourished, in the heart. The things that the flesh does are simply the result of sin concocted and planned in the heart.

They didn't understand that; these things were hidden from them. They said, "*God's our Father; we have Moses.*"

I will tell you this; men today will not hear these things. Our Lord said; "*Father, you have hid these things from the wise and prudent, (the clever, the wise, the intellectuals). You have hid these things.*"

These things in general pertain to salvation, life, a relationship with God, in particular, the deity of the Son of God, His incarnation, His Sovereign power, and the inability of men, the substitutionary work of Christ, the new birth, regeneration, repentance, faith, and sanctification.

To most people these are just words, imputed righteousness, and imparted righteousness, "*these things.*"

Where are they hid? In what sense are they hid?

I will tell you where; they are hid in Christ. That's right; they are in Christ. That's where they are; they are in Christ. God has put every blessing pertaining to sinners in Christ. God has put every blessing pertaining to salvation in Christ.

*"In Him dwelleth."* It wasn't there for a little while and then left, it is dwelling, "*all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;*" that is where it is, it is in Christ. "*He of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.*"

You don't need anything but that, wisdom, heavenly, spiritual wisdom. Righteousness: that is pure, perfect, immaculate, infinite holiness. Sanctification: That is imparted righteousness and holiness of life. Redemption: No charge, no condemnation, no judgment, all in Christ.

They are in Christ; that is where they are. You might say, "Why are they hidden then?" Why does He say, if they are clearly in Christ, (if they are vested in Christ, if God has put them in Christ, if that is where they are), then why are they said to be hidden?"

Well, they are not hidden as in a game when we play hide-and-seek or hide the apple or hide the marble. They are not put in Christ so that men cannot find it, if they really want Christ, if they really seek Christ, if they really desire Christ. "*Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for righteousness; they shall be filled.*"

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Any man who wants to know these things can know them. But, these things are in Christ and men do not find them, discover them, or learn them, because they are seeking them everywhere but in Christ. That's the reason they are hidden.

You will never find anything if you don't look where it is. If I take my keys today and hide them over there under that chair, you aren't going to find them looking under this pulpit. You are not going to find them looking back here behind the backdrop. You have to look where they are.

The reason salvation, eternal life, forgiveness and mercy, which is hid in Christ and is not discovered, understood, or laid hold upon by sinners, is because they are not looking for these things in Christ. They are looking for them everywhere but in Christ.

They are looking for salvation down at the front of a church or in a preacher's hand, or in a sacrament or in bread, wafers, wine, or in the baptismal pool, or in the law or in their good works.

Paul said in **Romans 10**: *"They are going about to establish their own righteousness. They won't submit to the righteousness of God which is Christ."* Christ said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me."*

We are trying to get to the Father through the church. You can ask a man, "How are you saved?" He will say, "I am a good Christian or I am a Methodist or I am a Baptist or a Catholic." That's not the way to be saved; Christ is the way to God; the Spirit says that; *"it's in Christ."*

Men will try to be saved by doing good deeds. They will say, "Are you a Christian?" You may say, "Well, I have never done anybody any harm. I have always tried to do the best I can; I have been good to my wife and to my children. I have tried to take care of my family. I pay my honest debt."

Well, that is not the way to God. You are looking for it everywhere but where it is, it is in Christ. There is forgiveness, *"in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin in Christ Jesus."*

Where are you looking for redemption? You are looking in your works. Are you a Christian? "Well, yea; 25 years ago I did this and I did that and I did the other." But, that is not what the Scripture says. It says, redemption is not in what I did but it is in what He did; it is in Christ. Do you see what I am saying? *"These things are hid."*

The door to heaven, what is it? Somebody may say, "Well, there are a lot of ways to heaven, we all are traveling different ways." Christ said, *"Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Christ Jesus."*



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*“There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. I am the door; by me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved. He that climbeth up some other way is a thief and a robber.”*

*“These things are hid from the wise and the prudent”* because he is looking for these things everywhere but where they are and they are going to stay hid from you until you see them in Christ.

You are coming to Christ or you are not coming to God. You are coming by the way of the cross or you are not coming at all. Now, that is so! You will go on blinded, blinded by the god of this world. He is religious; he has always been religious. He’s always dealt with people in the religious area, in the religious realm.

Some people think that Satan hangs out in the honky-tonks and down at the poolroom or somewhere else; no he doesn’t. He hangs around in churches, in synagogues, cathedrals, and everywhere where religion is named so that he can blind people with everything in the world but Christ.

He doesn’t care how religious you are, it’s just so you do not know Christ. They will remain hidden from everybody who looks for them anywhere but in Christ, who said; *“look unto me and be ye saved. I am God and there is none else, all the ends of the earth.”* Is that clear?

Thirdly: From whom are they hidden?

He said, *“Father; you have hid these things from the wise and the prudent.”* This expression does not mean that these people who reject God’s grace and Gospel are truly wise. He calls them, *“the wise; you have hid these things from the wise.”*

They are not really wise; they are wise in the wrong things. They are clever in the natural realm.

They can build bridges, skyscrapers, and make war, but they think themselves as to be wise but the wisdom of this world is *“foolishness with God.”* A truly wise man is one who fears God.

Now, our Lord Jesus Christ is saying this; *“The Father hid these things from the wise and the prudent,”* from people who have worldly wisdom, natural wisdom, physical, material, wisdom and they think themselves to be wise in the spiritual realm.

In that realm they are blind and dull of hearing. *“The natural man receiveth not the things of God, they are foolishness to him.”*

The truly wise man is the man who fears God. Listen to the wise man Solomon; he said, *“The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord.”* That is where it all starts. The secret of the Lord, the secret of God, the mysteries of God, are with them that fear God.

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A man of good judgment, a prudent man, is one who knows that a man's life does not consist in things of which he possesses. *"What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?"*

Listen to **1 Corinthians 1:26**; *"You see your calling brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh are called, not many mighty, not many noble: But God hath chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise."*

*"And God hath chosen the base things and the things which are despised by men to bring to naught the things that are."* To whom are these things hidden? They are hidden to the worldly wise, even the religious, wise, those who think themselves to be wise, and have not subjected their so-called wisdom, to the wisdom of God, those who do not come down into the dust at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ.

To those who have not said, "Lord; I am but a child; teach me; I am so hungry, feed me. I am so empty, fill me. I am so blind, give me sight. I am so deaf, give me hearing. I am so dumb. Let the light of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ shine into my heart."

Well, how is the knowledge of these things obtained, salvation, forgiveness of sin, and eternal life? He said, *"Thou hast revealed them."* That gives us a clue; *"Thou has revealed them."* It is a revelation.

One day our Lord said to His disciples; *"Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?"* They said, *"Well; some say that you are John the Baptist, some say you are Elijah, and some say that you are one of the prophets."*

You see; these are natural men of logic and intellect, they are trying to figure out who this man Jesus Christ is; they are trying to figure out. Where did He come from and who is He? What is He saying?"

They couldn't figure it out; they couldn't see it. They were the so-called wise men. But, our Lord pointed to these so-called ignorant fishermen, these obscure, non-influential, men, and He said; *"but whom do you say that I am?"*

Peter looked at Him and said, *"I know who you are; you are the Christ, the Messiah. You are the one promised all the way through the Old Testament; you are the Son of God."*

He said, *"Peter; blessed are you; flesh and blood didn't reveal that to you."* You didn't learn that in school. You didn't learn that down at the synagogue, My Father taught that to you. *"Flesh and blood didn't reveal that to you but my Father which is in heaven."* Peter, *"Blessed are your eyes they see and your ears they hear."*

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Here were these Scribes and Pharisees. Peter spent his life on a boat, on the beach fishing and cleaning nets. He was washing nets and casting them into the sea. He was cleaning fish, cutting them up and selling them.

Here were these men who had spent their lives up there with all the old, musty and rusty, books. They had blown the dust off and swept the cobwebs and read them cover to cover. They read all of the old writers.

They read the Scriptures and they searched the Scriptures. They had searched them in vain. They were blinded by their own traditions and ceremonies and religious heritage. They couldn't see anything and they said, "*Well; who is this man Jesus,*" etc, etc?

Our Lord said, "*Peter; whom do you say that I am?*" He said, "*You are the Son of God. I know exactly who you are.*" That is how he came to know it, by revelation.

*"But God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness has shined in our hearts to give us the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*

Yes sir; that's how it is learned, that's how it is learned. You are not going to teach a man these things; God has to be his teacher. We preach and we teach and we give the Scripture.

I want to tell you something; God's our teacher. The Holy Spirit is our teacher. We only learn from Him when He opens the heart and is pleased by His grace to give us an understanding.

To whom are they revealed? They are revealed to babes; "*Thou hast hid these things from the wise and the prudent (clever and the intellectual) and Thou hast revealed them unto babes.*"

Am I talking about little children preaching? Well, not necessarily; I am talking about those who are brought down to the feet of Christ, down, down, down, as little children; our Lord said, "*Except you be converted to become as a little child.*" What is a little child like?

First of all: He knows he is ignorant. He knows he doesn't know

Secondly: He is teachable; he will listen to you

Thirdly: He is dependent

He will not reason, he will receive. When you stop reasoning and start receiving, you will start believing!