

# *Who Do You Say That I Am?*

## Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expositional Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

### 138- The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath- Part 3

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Church September 07, 2025

#### **Matthew 11:25-12:21**

**25** At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.

**26** Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.

**27** All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

**28** "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

**29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.**

**30** For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

**12:1** At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples became hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat.

**2** But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples do what is not lawful to do on a Sabbath."

**3** But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he became hungry, he and his companions,

**4** how he entered the house of God, and they ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat nor for those with him, but for the priests alone?

**5** Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and are innocent?

**6** But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here.

**7** But if you had known what this means, 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT A SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the innocent.

**8** "For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

**9** Departing from there, He went into their synagogue.

**10** And a man was there whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, asking, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—so that they might accuse Him.

**11** And He said to them, "What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out?"

**12 How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."**

**13 Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand!" He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other.**

**14 But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.**

**15 But Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. Many followed Him, and He healed them all,**

**16 and warned them not to tell who He was.**

**17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:**

**18 "BEHOLD, MY SERVANT WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN; MY BELOVED IN WHOM MY SOUL is WELL-PLEASED; I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM, AND HE SHALL PROCLAIM JUSTICE TO THE GENTILES.**

**19 "HE WILL NOT QUARREL, NOR CRY OUT; NOR WILL ANYONE HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS.**

**20 "A BATTERED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK OFF, AND A SMOLDERING WICK HE WILL NOT PUT OUT, UNTIL HE LEADS JUSTICE TO VICTORY.**

**21 "AND IN HIS NAME THE GENTILES WILL HOPE."**

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;  
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Christianity is a "*Revealed Religion*". Everything that is true about Christianity MUST be *revealed* to us by God. And God has chosen to use two *primary* "Means" or "Ways" by which God's Truth is revealed to us:

1. By honestly observing the created Universe (Nature)
2. By reading and studying the Scriptures

The "*Revelation of God*" that comes to us by Way of what we can observe throughout the created Universe (Nature)- is called, "*General Revelation*". And, as its Title intimates- the Revelation of God found in Nature is "*General*"- in the sense that this type of Divine Revelation only provides us with very "general Truth." Please look at **Romans 1:20**:

**For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.**

... so, the infallible Word of the living God says that at least two Characteristics of God...

1. God's eternal Power
2. God's Divine Nature

... have been “**clearly seen**” by Humanity through “*General Revelation*”.

But *how* are these two Attributes of God “**clearly seen**”? Both of these two *parts* of God's “**Excellencies**” (1Peter 2:9)- which is God's “Holiness” are clearly seen...

**... being understood through what has been made ...**

... so, based on nothing more than an *honest* Examination of the created Universe (**what has been made**)- both God's “**eternal Power**” as well as His “**Divine Nature**” have been clearly seen and can be understood!

But to what End? *Why* did God choose to reveal Himself to Mankind this Way? What was the Reason behind WHY God chose to reveal two of His many “**Excellencies**” (1Peter 2:9) or “Attributes” through what has been made? The Apostle infallibly wrote...

**... so that they [Mankind] are without Excuse!**

The other *primary* Way in which God reveals Himself to Man- is what is called, “*Specific*” or “*Special*” Revelation- where God the Holy Spirit *mysteriously and supernaturally* “moved” on 40 men; over a 1500 year- time-frame- in a Process called, “*Inspiration*”- so they would pen down 66 Books that are the Inspired; Inerrant; Infallible Word of the living God.

So, God used very common and ordinary men (who were ALL Sinners and who ALL needed God's Grace)- like Moses and Samuel; and David; and Isaiah; and Matthew; and John; and Paul; and Peter; and Jude- to give us the small Library of infallible Writ that we call today, the “Holy Bible” or the “Holy Scriptures”.

And the men God used to write that 66 Books- all used their *own* Language; their *own* Wisdom; their *own* Thoughts; their *own* “figures of Speech” in their Writings. And so, those men used very common and ordinary “*Tools of Language*” like Nouns; and Verbs; and Adjectives; and Adverbs; and *somehow* (and we really don't know how)- God the Holy Spirit so *superintended* the Production of the sacred Scriptures that they contain NO Errors- either in part or in whole! And that is why the unknown Writer said this in **Hebrews 1:1**:

**God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,**

So, under the inferior Old Covenant- God used “**many Ways**” or “Means” to speak to the original “Fathers of the Faith”. And among the many “**Ways**” in which God spoke to the Fathers were:

- The Urim and Thummim
- Prophets
- Seers
- Dreams
- Angelic Visitations
- Visions
- Pre-Incarnate Manifestations of Jesus

... the Writer also said that, under the Old Covenant- God spoke to the Fathers in “**many Portions**” or “**Degrees**” or “**Amounts**”. So, we can say that the “specific Revelation” of God to Man under the Old Covenant was a “*partial* Revelation”! So, that Revelation was NOT Complete nor was it “Finished”! And so, that “partial Revelation of God” found in the 39 Books of the Old Testament uses Signs; and Symbols; and Types that represent something BETTER and MORE IMPORTANT than the Sign itself!

But with Jesus’ first Advent- the writer of **Hebrews** said that God *changed* the Way He “spoke” to the Apostles,

### **Hebrews 1:2**

**in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.**

... and this is an infinitely *superior* Way!

So, God the Holy Spirit “moved” on *some* of the Apostles (as well as those who were chosen to write on their behalf)- to write an additional 27 Books that became what we now call, the “New Testament”. And what the 27 Books contain is:

- 4 historical Narratives of what Jesus said and did while on the earth
- The Diary of the first 30 years of Christianity (The Acts of the Apostles)
- 21 didactic (teaching) Books (Epistles) that describe what Obedience to God looks like under the New Covenant
- A Prophecy of the final glorification of Jesus

... which contain the *final, full, and completed* Revelation of God to Man!

But, because Christianity is a “*Revealed Religion*”- God MUST sovereignly “move” on the human Mind and Heart to give that individual both the Desire and the Ability to “see”; or “know” or “comprehend” the Revelation that is in both Nature and the Scriptures- or else that person will NOT be able to make sense of it all- even though it is right in front of them!

So, we are NOT only dependent on God to give us the Revelation of Himself and His Will- but we are also totally dependent on God to give us the Desire and Ability to make sense of that Revelation- or we will still be in the Dark! And that is what the Apostle Matthew is writing about- in the first part of the Passage that was just read to us- one of two things:

1. God graciously revealing Himself and His Will to some Sinners
2. God sovereignly *withholding* that Revelation from other Sinners

Now there is so much being said these Days about the so-called “*Free-Will*” of people- that you *might* think that this “*Free-Will*” of humans was actually a real thing; or that the Bible actually taught it. But human “Free-Will” is NOT a real thing; and the Bible does NOT teach it! At all! Ever! Anywhere!

The Concept of human “Free-Will” is a fabricated, Man-made, invented, and FALSE Doctrine- that flows out from fallen human Beings- out of the Desire to try to make God look “better” when discussing *how* lost Sinners are saved and why everybody *isn't* going to Heaven. And the common Statement that is almost universally given to try to justify why the modern Church teaches things that God did NOT say and things which the Bible does NOT proclaim is:

***“Free-Will” MUST exist or God wouldn't be “Fair”!***

... which *presupposes* that God is the least concerned about having to measure up to some arbitrary human Concept of just what would or would not be “Fair”.

But I really don't think people want God to be “Fair” with us. You see, if God were to be “Fair” with us- then the ONLY thing we would be given by God would be- eternal Damnation! Because being “Fair” means that we get what we *deserve*. And by that Definition- neither God's Grace nor His Mercy are “Fair”- because that is God either giving to us what we do NOT deserve (Grace)- or keeping away from us what we DO deserve (Mercy).

The ONLY thing that Sin *deserves* is “Judgment”. So, “Fairness” would mean that EVERYBODY goes to Hell- because that would be “Fair”. So, I hope you can see that God is actually BETTER than “Fair”- because the Bible says that God is both “Gracious” as well as “Merciful”.

And that means that God is NOT concerned with being “Fair”- but with being “God”. And as God- God is Glorious and Majestic; and Powerful; and Almighty and Love; and sinlessly Perfect! And so, God desires to be praised; and loved; and worshipped; and admired; and marveled over!

But that does NOT mean that God is “Unfair”! But because God is both “Merciful” (Gracious) AND “Just” (Righteous); and because God is white-hot in His Passion to be glorified- God always does what is in His Own Best Interests! And so, God *saves* Sinners or He *refuses* to save Sinners so that He will be glorified in two Ways:

1. The “*Glory of God’s Grace*” will be seen and praised- at the Saving of unworthy Sinners- by what God alone does for them
2. The “*Glory of God’s Justice*” will be seen and praised- at the Damnation of unworthy Sinners- who refuse to repent

... in other words, every human Account will be settled- either on the Cross in Salvation or in the Lake of Fire in Damnation- and there will be NO outstanding Accounts!

And so, God operates- He does all that He does- based on the Priorities that God has *imposed* on Himself; and NOT based on what fallen Man *seeks* to impose on God!

Now I have said all of this to say this: As you read **Matthew 11:25-27**- you see a *radical* Change in the Way Jesus deals with lost human beings- so, let’s read those verses together:

**25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.**

**26 Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.**

**27 All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.**

Now please look again at verse 25, where Jesus said:

**... "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.**

Here, Jesus is praising His Father for HIDING “**these things**” from the “**wise**” and the “**intelligent**” and for REVEALING them to “**infants**”. Now WHY

did Jesus say this? *Why* is He praising God for HIDING things from *some* people while REVEALING them to *others*? *Why* would God want to hide *anything* from *anybody*? Doesn't Jesus want to save *everybody*? This is very strange.

But before we answer that Question- we need to find out what “**these things**” are. What are the “THINGS” that God has *purposefully* hidden from the “**wise and intelligent**” and ONLY revealed them to “**infants**”? And in order to find out what “**these things**” are- *requires* us to examine what Jesus just finished saying in verses 20-24.

And, when we do that- we see that what is being discussed in verses 20-24 is the fact that the Cities- in which Jesus performed the MOST Miracles- did NOT embrace Him as God in human Flesh! And since those Cities in which He performed many Miracles did NOT embrace Him as both God and Messiah- Jesus said, IT WOULD BE MORE TOLERABLE in the Day of Judgment for the wicked Cities of Tyre, Sidon, and even Sodom than for them! And that tells us several things:

- Trusting in Jesus for Salvation is the BEST thing anyone can do
- Rejecting Jesus is the WORST Sin anyone can commit
- The “Spiritual Deadness” of lost people is so profound that experiencing Miracles does NOT bring about Repentance or Belief
- Unless God sovereignly opens their eyes; unstops their ears, gives them a new Nature; and softens their heart- NO lost person will ever be convicted; they will NOT repent; and they will NOT be saved

So, the “THINGS” that Jesus was praising God for hiding from the “wise and intelligent” have to do with WHY *some* people repent and believe while *others* don't! But what Jesus says here does NOT make any sense- IF what is being taught by many in the modern Church is true! Because it simply is NOT normal for anyone- who has seen Miracles performed right before their eyes- to NOT believe and be saved! That makes NO Sense- IF- IF- all that being saved involves- is a Choice or a Decision! Because, in that case- those who have seen the MOST- would, normally, be those who are willing to believe- a whole lot *faster* and a whole lot *easier* than those who have NOT seen anything!

We have to realize that Choices are NOT usually made without there being a Reason *behind* the Choice. And yet, as we read this Passage- we see that the Opposite is true! Those, who saw the MOST Miracles- did NOT believe; and will receive a more harsh Punishment in the Day of Judgment- than those who were the *worst* Sinners!

Now that would be strange enough. But to add Insult to Injury- in verse 25- Jesus is now praising God- that He did NOT reveal- why *some* would be saved

while *others* are not- to those who were intelligent and wise- while revealing them to infants! And then, on top of all that- look what Jesus said in verse 26:

**Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.**

... so, not only does God do this- but Jesus said it was “*well-pleasing*” in God’s Sight to ONLY reveal Salvation to “infants” and to *purposefully* NOT reveal Salvation to the “wise and intelligent”! This is incredible! So, how do we reconcile what Jesus said here- with what He Himself said in **Luke 19:10**:

**... the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**

Doesn’t Jesus want to save EVERYBODY? If so, why is He talking like this? Because from what He says here- it seems that God is *purposefully* NOT revealing Salvation to a certain Group of people while revealing it to others. So, is that true?

Let’s try to make sense of all this. And first of all- we see that Jesus is *re-enforcing* the Truth that Christianity is a “Revealed Religion”! Everything that is true about God MUST be revealed! And it MUST be revealed FROM God and TO us! But that also means that Salvation itself HAS TO BE revealed BY God and to us as well! Look what Jesus said in verse 27:

**All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.**

... so, four things:

1. In the New Covenant- EVERYTHING has been handed over to Jesus from God the Father
2. NOBODY knows God the Son except God the Father
3. NOBODY knows God the Father- except God the Son
4. We MAY know God the Father- IF God the Son CHOOSES (Wills)- to reveal Him to us

... which means if God the Son does NOT Will (Choose) to reveal God the Father to us- we will NOT know God! And if we do NOT know God- we will NOT be saved!

Now the word that was translated here as “**know**” comes from a Greek word (*epiginosko*; Strong’s #1921), which means: *to learn well; to perceive; to become fully aware*. So, nobody *perceives* the Father; nobody is *fully aware* of God the



Father- unless God the Son chooses (wills) to *reveal* Him! And that REVEALING is accomplished in Salvation! So, what Jesus is saying here is that the ONLY Way Sinners can come to know God the Father- fully- is IN Salvation. And the ONLY people who will be saved- are those to whom God the Father *reveals* Jesus!

Now, even though this may sound like “*Circle Reasoning*”- it isn’t! In fact, it is very Straight- forward! We have to remember that the Goal in Salvation is NOT to merely go to Heaven. Saved people WILL go to Heaven- and that will be wonderful! But the *primary* Goal of Salvation is for undeserving Sinners to be “reconciled to God”! Because God is BETTER than Heaven! **Romans 5:10** says,

**For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

... while **2Corinthians 5:20&21** says,

**20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**

**21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

God the Father is the One, who has been insulted and offended by our Sin. And God the Father is the One we are separated from- in our fallen State. And so, Salvation forgives the Sin and reconciles us back to God the Father! So, in Salvation- Jesus reveals the FULLNESS of God the Father to us as we are reconciled!

But the Way we are saved- is by God the Father *choosing* us for Salvation- from before the Foundation of the world (**Ephesians 1:4**)! And once we are chosen- God the Father (working with God the Holy Spirit) REVEALS Jesus Christ- in His Glory- to us! And that is HOW we are saved. Look at **2Corinthians 4:3,4&6**:

**3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,  
4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

**6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**

.. and here is how this works:

As lost people- satan has “**blinded our minds**”- so we CANNOT “see the **“light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”!** And the ONLY Way to fix this- is for God the Father to sovereignly “reveal” Jesus to us- or, in other words, for Him to sovereignly “[shine] **in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ**”

And once Jesus- in His Magnificence- has been sovereignly “Revealed” into the mind and heart of a lost person- who has been chosen by God the Father for Salvation- the *first* thing that happens is- that person sees or understands or comprehends the great Contrast between the Glory of God IN Jesus and his own Wickedness! And his *first* Response- is that he begins to *hate* who he is! He is given the Ability to *hate* his Sin and to *marvel* at the Glory of God that is revealed to him in Jesus!

The *second* thing- is that he begins to “*love what he sees*” or what has been *revealed* to him! The Hatred and Disgust that he applies to his Sin- brings about both Conviction and Repentance. But the Love for the Glory of God in Jesus that is revealed to him brings about the ongoing Transformation (Sanctification) into the Image and Likeness of Jesus! And that allows him to be reconciled to God or to be “changed into what he sees”!

So, the ONLY Way we can “see” or “comprehend” God the Father fully- is for Jesus to *reveal* Him unto us! And the ONLY way that happens- is if we are saved! And the ONLY Way we can be saved- is for God the Father to *reveal* Jesus to us! So, Jesus and God the Father work together- with God the Holy Spirit- to reveal “Jesus- Who IS the Glory of God” and to reveal the “Glory of God- IN Jesus”- by saving wicked Rebels (by what He alone does for them) and *reconciles* them to God!

Yet it is manifest that God does NOT do this for everybody! We can see that everybody is NOT saved! *Some* people are saved while *others* remain Lost! And the \$64,000 Question is: “*WHY?*” Why doesn’t God save *everybody*? And this Question has bothered people for many, many Centuries. And in order to try to answer it- some people- many with ONLY the purest of Intentions- have *invented*; *created*; and *manufactured* what they think is the Answer. And it goes something like this:

“God loves *everybody*! And God *wants to save everybody*! And Jesus died to give everybody a “Chance”- an Opportunity- to “accept the free-gift of Salvation”! But they have to WANT it! They have to ASK for it! They have to DESIRE it! They have to CHOOSE it! They have to willfully and voluntarily CHOOSE to “accept the Gift”- or it will NOT become theirs! And those who make the conscious

Decision to “accept” the Salvation God offers them- will be saved! And those who don’t- won’t!”

... and on many Levels- this makes Sense- which is WHY it is the DOMINANT Way that Salvation is taught in the American Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

But there are several things wrong with this Logic- the main one being: THE BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH THIS! The 66 Books of the Holy Bible have NEVER taught this! It is NOT what the Old Testament teaches; and it is NOT what the New Testament teaches, either! NOBODY taught this in the Bible- NOT Moses; NOT Abraham; NOT David; NOT Isaiah; NOT Jesus; and NOT the Apostles! You simply CANNOT find this- ANYWHERE in the Bible! This Logic is a completely fabricated and Man-made Concept that is entirely Unbiblical! Other than that- it’s great!

This false Teaching allows for Man to either get ALL or SOME of the Glory for his own Salvation- which God said He would NEVER allow! Because whoever makes the final and ultimate Choice in Salvation- is the one who has *earned* and the one who is *entitled* to receive the Glory! So, even if God did 99% of everything needed for Salvation and all Man did was 1%- then Man would be entitled to 15 of the Glory!

But the Bible repeatedly says that Man gets NO Glory for Salvation and that God gets 100%! And so, by default that means at least two things:

1. God did ALL the Work in Salvation
2. Man did NO Work

... which means this Logic- that has become the *dominant* Way of Salvation that is taught today in the modern Church- is NOT true!

But what IS true and what the Bible DOES teach- *clearly and repeatedly*- in BOTH the Old and New Testaments- from EVERY Writer- is something like this:

“God loves everybody- in *some* sense! But God loves some people DIFFERENTLY- in the sense that He loves them- SAVINGLY! And God has chosen some for Salvation- BEFORE the Foundation of the World; BEFORE they were born; and BEFORE they did anything Good or Bad! And God did that so that Salvation will be BY Grace and THROUGH Faith and so that God ALONE will receive ALL the Glory for Salvation – and so that NOBODY will be able to boast about what he did to save himself! And so, God has “set His Love” upon those Sinners- to save them! And Jesus died to actually purchase the Salvation of those God the Father chose to save! And God the Holy Spirit goes out into the world to sovereignly draw or drag those chosen Sinners to Jesus- so Jesus will wash them

and forgive them! And Jesus receives them because they are Gifts from God the Father to Him! And God the Father takes the spotless Righteousness that Jesus earned by living a sinless Life and He sovereignly Imputes that Righteousness on to those He chose to save! And because God is absolutely Sovereign over everything- all the Time- this World will NOT end until ALL those God chose to save- are saved!”

... and THAT is why Jesus said,

**I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.**

So, the correct Context as to what Jesus meant by using the term, “**wise and intelligent**” here- is that He was referring to the Pharisees- who in their *own* mind were the ONLY ones who correctly understood the Old Testament Scriptures; the ONLY ones who understood the Purpose of the Temple; and the ONLY ones who correctly understood the Sabbath- when, in fact, they were categorically wrong about ALL of it! And in this Context- Jesus was saying that God the Father chose NOT to reveal Salvation to those men and to hide it from them!

So, Jesus is NOT speaking *literally* here. Our Lord is NOT against Education nor is He against us becoming Intelligent and Wise. You do NOT have to be Ignorant and Uninformed to be saved! And, while God DOES love babies and children- they are NOT the only ones who are saved! Jesus was speaking “*metaphorically*” here by condemning the Group- who were supposedly the wisest and the most intelligent people in all of Israel!

And that had to sound amazing to the Disciples and Apostles because the Pharisees were supposedly the “Cream of the Crop” when it came to anything religious. But we need to remember that Jesus wasn’t fooled by their outward Religiosity at all! Jesus NEVER praised the Pharisees nor did He ever accept them as true Representatives of God nor of the Old Testament! And they NEVER praised Him and NEVER accepted Him as the Messiah! The Hostility between the sinless Lamb of God and the Pharisees was truly amazing and even frightening! They were *continually* trying to trap Him- but *never* could; and Jesus was *continually* exposing them as the Frauds they were- and *always* succeeded!

And using the phrase, “**Wise and Intelligent**” to refer to the Pharisees- also underscored the sinful Self-righteousness of these unsaved and hypocritical Leaders! In other words, not only was Jesus being *sarcastic* about this term- He was actually *condemning* these people! But the *worst* Condemnation was found in

the Fact that God *purposefully* withheld the Understanding of His Divine Revelation from these people and left them in their lost Condition!

And by using the term, “**Infants**” to describe the people to whom God DID choose to reveal Salvation- indicates the “Spirit- birthed Humility” that *always* attaches to all of those to whom God sovereignly chooses to reveal Salvation! So, this is simply another Way of saying what He said in **Matthew 18:3&4**:

**13... "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.**

**4 Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**

When God the Holy Spirit is dealing with a lost soul- one of the *first* things that happens- is that the one whom the Spirit is drawing to Jesus; the one who recognizes his own Wickedness; the one who acknowledges that hi Sin has offended and insulted God- is gifted with great Humility.

Pride; Arrogance; and Self-righteousness will absolutely keep people OUT of the Kingdom, dear friends! Why? Because those Characteristics will stop them from confessing their Sins and turning away from them! So, people, who can't seem to admit their own inherent Sinfulness; their own inherent Wickedness; those who *refuse* to acknowledge their Unworthiness- are NOT being dealt with by God the Holy Spirit! Because by Definition- what it means for God to be drawing a person to Jesus for Salvation- is that they are visited with great Humility. They don't try to excuse their Sin; they don't desire to mask it; or hide it; or try to make it look less Sinful. People being drawn to Jesus by God the Holy Spirit are people who can easily and quickly admit they are Evil and Hopeless without the Mercy and Grace of God! And they truly believe and will readily confess how they *deserve* Damnation!

Now this Statement by Jesus here about how God chooses to reveal Himself and true Salvation to some while hiding it from others- indicates a radical Change in the Way Jesus will minister to the Lost from now on- until His Death by Crucifixion! And it represents a Preview of what He will be talking about in Chapter 13- about WHY He began to teach the people using “*Parables*”! And He said this:

**Matthew 13:10-16**

**10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"**

**11 Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.**

**12 "For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.**

**13 Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.**

**14 In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;**

**15 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'**

**16 But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.**

So, Jesus said the Reason God reveals to *some* and doesn't reveal to *others*; the Reason He spoke to the people in Parables- is so that NOT EVERYBODY WOULD BE ABLE TO HEAR! In other words, it is God's Will for those He chose to save- to be able to hear and see and understand and believe the Mysteries of the Kingdom of God! But to those who are NOT chosen- they will NOT hear or see or understand! And this is God's Will and so, it is pleasing in His Sight!

But to many, many people- especially in our 221<sup>st</sup> Century America- what Jesus clearly says here is highly Offensive! Many people categorically *reject* what Jesus says here and some have actually *departed* from Christianity itself based on what Jesus says here.

But part of what it means for Jesus to be the "*Lord of the Sabbath*" is that- IN, BY, and THROUGH Him- we may *cease* from our Fight and Rebellion against what Jesus said and did; as well as WHO He said He is and *embrace* Him! And as we embrace Jesus- we will also embrace what Jesus said and what He did!

So, *part* of what it means for Jesus to be the "*Lord of the Sabbath*" is that we may find genuine and eternal "Rest" in ALL that Jesus is; ALL that Jesus said; and ALL that Jesus did! So, please come to Jesus- and *trust* in WHO He is; and *embrace* WHAT He said; and *enjoy* WHAT He did- and you WILL find Rest for your Souls!

Amen. Let's pray!

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your Pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God ALONE!