

The Gospel According to Matthew pt 36

(Ears to Hear)

If you take the 15th verse of our study text, in Mathew chapter 11, into consideration you can see His great Graciousness in His word to His elect.

“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.” (Mat 11:15)

As I read my go to commentators over these words in chapter 11, I found myself, once again not clearly seeing eye to eye with their comments, what I did see is this verse, verse 15. Who are these who have ears? Spiritual ears? But those whom God is merciful to in giving them spiritual life, spiritual ears to hear! To Anyone else these things are but foolishness. **“Enmity”** so in that sense, this verse, verse 15 is a key verse to what we have read, and to what we are about to read!

(Mat 11:16) **But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows,**

(Mat 11:17) **And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.**

This Generation is liken to any other generation, the word of God goes out yet the natural man will not hearken to it! **“We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.”** We have spoken of the Love of God, ye have not danced, we have waned you of the wrath of God, ye have not lamented.

(Mat 11:18) **For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil.**

John came preaching the bold message, God hates sin and must punish it with death, yet He has sent His son to die in the stead, as the Sacrificial Lamb, for those He has loved from the foundations of the worlds! “Repent and be Baptized”. John was no reed swayin in the wind! He was no fair dressed, hypocrite, sitting in the chiefs seat, he was humble in his way of life yet he declared the religious to be Hypocrites, steeped in their own self-righteousness, so they claimed he was of the devil!

(Mat 11:19) The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.

Christ too, came in boldness, preaching Himself the savior of His people, the healer of the sick “**Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.**” and they would not listen, rather they called Him “**a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners**”.

We cannot get around this Folks, we hear because He has loved us with an everlasting Love, the Holy Spirit has given us life! Given us a new heart, we are a new man, one with new ears, new feet, new tongue, we sing a new song!

“And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.” (Eze 36:23-28)

“I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.” (Psa 40:1-4)

What is our new Song! **“Salvation is of the Lord”** that was Jonah’s new song, that was Noah’s new Song, that is our new Song, and we know that God is the only one who can give ears to hear us sing this new song! Other wise it is but foolishness to unregenerate man!

Christ went about healing the poor and sick and natural men did not get the message, this is Grace to you and I, we were in that very same boat, we were on the road of self-righteous, works, and cared nothing for the truth, we were in the pit of destruction!

Christ was clear! He is the Messiah! The deliverer! And His own people would not have Him; **“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” (Joh 1:10-11)**

“But wisdom is justified of her children.”

Who is this **“Wisdom”**; **“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” (1Co 1:30-31)**

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” (1Ti 3:16)

(Mat 11:20) Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not:

(Mat 11:21) Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

(Mat 11:22) But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

(Mat 11:23) And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

(Mat 11:24) But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

Brother Don Fortner wrote; “Every time I read these verses of Holy Scripture, two striking facts are forcibly driven home to my heart by the Spirit of God: (1.) God almighty is totally sovereign in providence and grace. He sends the gospel to whom he will! And (2.) the most heinous wickedness in this world is the sin of unbelief! Those people who hear the gospel and yet believe it not are guilty of the greatest evil in the world. They may be moral, descent, and respectable in behavior before men; but before God they are guilty of crimes far more abominable than the idolatries of Tyre and Sidon, and more vile than the homosexuality of Sodom.

That crime is willful unbelief;

(Pro 1:23-33) Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind;

when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil;

(Pro 29:1) He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

In the light of what is said here of Chorazin and Bethsaida, and the great woe pronounced upon those cities, which were favored with such high privileges and regarded them not, I cannot help thinking, What horrid condemnation awaits this generation in hell!" end quote

I can not help but think of what Paul wrote to the Saints at Rome in chapter 10 and 11

(Rom 10:16) But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

(Rom 10:17) So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

(Rom 10:18) But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

(Rom 10:19) But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.

(Rom 10:20) But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.

(Rom 10:21) But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

(Rom 11:1) I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

(Rom 11:2) God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

(Rom 11:3) Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

(Rom 11:4) But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

(Rom 11:5) Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Do you not rejoice in **“the election of grace”**? I rejoice because I know, I would not have loved God, if He had not first loved me!

So after declaring His wrath on the wicked for rejecting the Truth, He then gives us a word of peace.

(Mat 11:25) 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.

(Mat 11:26) Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

The Lord Jesus gives thanks to His Father for the distinguishing grace bestowed upon chosen sinners. While hiding the wonders of redemption from “the wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight”; **“Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!”** (Isa 5:21), the Lord reveals His mercy unto the humble and the lowly. Salvation comes by divine revelation. But this revelation of grace never comes to any but those who receive the Word of God by faith as humble children. God will never lift up any by His grace until He has brought them down to need His grace. He will never teach any until they are made to see that they need to learn of Him. In seeing the people who reject His Word, we are brought low to see what we deserve, therefore we can look up to Him as our brazen serpent and see His Grace!

“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” (Gen 18:25)

Robert Hawker wrote; *“Surely the Lord is not called upon to give account of the motives of his holy will and pleasure to any of his creatures. One thing we know, namely, that ‘his counsel and purpose must stand, and he will do all his pleasure,’ and that all He doeth is right. His conduct towards his creatures is by an unerring Standard. His mercy is not moved by any good in us, neither is it kept back by our undeservings; for neither our merit, nor our misery, can be said to have had any hand in disposing the purposes of His sovereign will towards us. That the Lord hath taken occasion from our misery to magnify the abounding riches of his mercy, is true; but then his mercy was before our misery, and his own everlasting love the sole cause of our blessedness in Christ, therefore our Lord’s own words are most blessed in point: ‘Even so Father! for so it seemed good in thy sight!’”*

Lastly we come to a word for needy souls

(Mat 11:27 **All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.**

(Mat 11:28) **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

(Mat 11:29) **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.**

(Mat 11:30) **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

These are gospel words of grace addressed to needy souls, both the lost and the saved.

Our Lord and Savior declares His greatness in verse 27; **“All things are delivered unto me of my Father”** no one can know the Father less the Son will reveal Him! All creation, including the unregenerate are in His hands to be Ruled and disposed of by Him for the glory of the triune God in the salvation of His people; **“As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.”** (Joh 17:2).

All God's elect were delivered to him to be kept and saved by Him. They are all "**preserved in Jesus Christ**" (Jud 1:1) from all eternity.

All power in heaven and in earth are his. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Him. All the blessings of grace, all the promises of mercy in the everlasting covenant, and all the glory and happiness of His people are in His hands.

"It pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell" (Col 1:19). It is the purpose and pleasure of the triune God that all the fulness of grace and glory dwell in the Lord Jesus Christ, our God-man Mediator and Savior. Whatever we get from God we receive of His fullness; **"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace."** (Joh 1:14-16).

All things were created by him. All things were created for him. He is before all things. By him all things consist. God the Father has given him preeminence in all things. And all things shall be reconciled to God by him. Dwelling forever in the Lord Jesus Christ there is an infinite, immeasurable wealth of grace and glory.

In (Mat 11:28-30) the Son of God, the Savior of the world, commands, invites, and persuades sinners to come to him, promising salvation and eternal life to all who do. **"Come unto me."** The Lord Jesus calls sinners to come to Him. He does not call us to come to an altar, the church, a priest, a preacher, a baptistery, the Lord's table, the law of Moses, or even to His doctrine. He says, **"Come unto me!"** What does that mean? What is it to come to Christ? He does not leave us to guess about that. He explains his meaning in (Joh 6:35) **"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."** To come to Christ is to **"believe on"** Him. It is an act of faith.