

“How We See: ‘Come To Me’”

Matthew 11:25-28a

May 17, 2026

INTRO: What’s the most shocking thing Jesus ever said?

(It depends on who you ask & what their perspective is... some are simply surprising, others can be insulting &/or convicting).

- Nicodemus: *“You must be born again.”*
- The 12 Disciples: *“One of you will betray Me...”*
- Judas: *“One of you is a devil.”*
- Pharisees: *“Woe to you, you whitewashed tombs...”*
- Jews: *“I Am!”*
- Catholics: *“Get behind Me Satan”*
- Atheists: *“I have come to fulfill all righteousness”*
- Laodiceans: *“I will puke you out of My mouth...”*
- “Sardines:” *“You are dead!”*
- **How about the churchy folks in Capernaum?**

PRAAYER

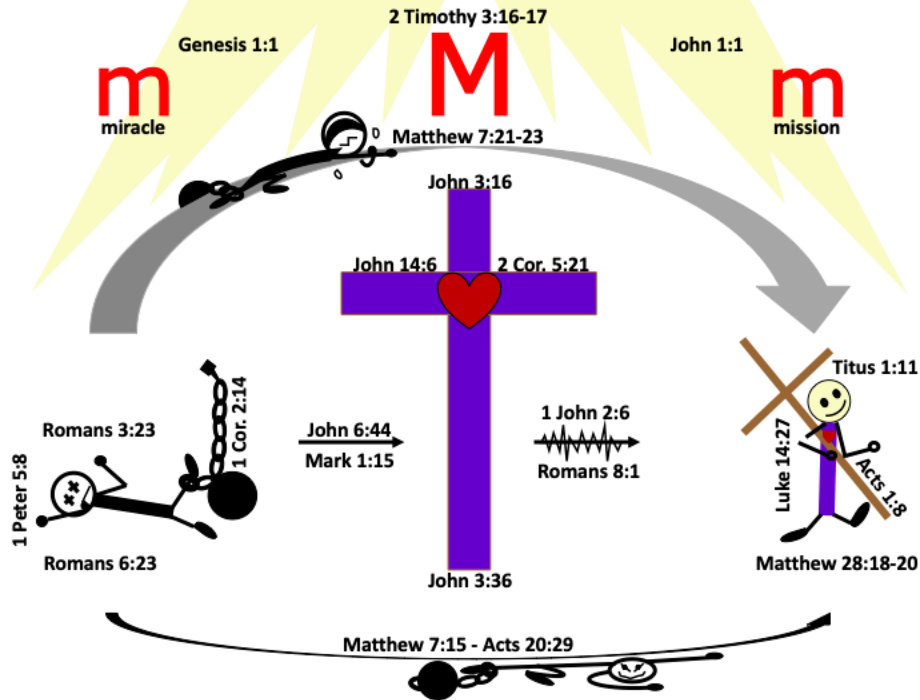
CONTEXT:

- Matthew’s Gospel on The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- See the progression of Christ’s Word, will, & ways
- John the Baptist’s WOW! & Jesus Christ’s WOEs!

BIG IDEA:

Everything we need is in the Trinity’s truth, love, mercy, grace, & Gospel!

(THE NEXT 60 MINUTES HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT & POWERFUL 60 MINUTES OF YOUR FOREVER-CONSCIOUS EXISTENCE — BE IT IN HEAVEN OR HELL...)



PREVIEW:

1. We **NEED** to realize we **NEED** to repent.
2. We **CAN'T** realize we **CAN'T** repent.
3. We **WILL** realize & we **WILL** repent.

Jesus is once again going, teaching, preaching, reprimanding & **SHOCKING** His hearers!

TEXT:

I. We **NEED** To Realize...

GOD'S REBUKE & WRATH ARE FOR THE BIBLICALLY--UNBELIEVING & REBELLIOUSLY--UNREPENTANT.

(Regardless of their religion & resumes!)

PRE-TEXT: Matthew 11:20-24

Woe to Unrepentant Cities

20Then He began to reprimand the cities where most of his miracles/mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. 21“**Woe** to you, Chorazin! **Woe** to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. 23And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? (No!) You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”

- *Repentance > remorse “feelings” or “nice” changes!*
- **No confession = no repentance & no restoration**
- *Christ's first recorded word preached: **REPENT!***

- His preaching would not be popular today...
- His teaching would not tickle itching ears...
- His evangelism would not be accepted today!
- *His Church growth strategy shrinks churches!*

➤ **NOTE: GOD'S WORD DOES GOD'S WORK!**

➤ *Do not miss or marginalize this Messianic message!*

➤ *Sodom's sins are overshadowed by Capernaum's!*

➤ *The more you know, the more you owe!* Luke 12:28

**NEVER FORGET... GOD'S MIRACLES
WERE & ARE SENT & MEANT TO
MAKE US REPENT!**

II. We CAN'T Realize...

**WE CAN'T WIN AT "Hide & Seek"
WITH GOD... WITHOUT HIS
GOSPEL GRACES!**

*25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise You Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,*

- **“At that time”** = after establishing vv.20-24
- **“Jesus said”** = Almighty God is speaking again!
- **“I praise/thank You Father”**
 - Jesus is declaring His own **DEITY** again!
 - Jesus is declaring **UNITY** with the Father.
 - Jesus is declaring Father’s **SOVEREIGNTY**.
- **“Lord of heaven and earth”**
 - Make no mistake, *He is God Almighty!*
 - Make no mistake, *this is a Trinitarian verse.*

that You have hidden these things

- **Who is “You”?** Answer: **GOD THE FATHER**
 - Think about this statement... by CHRIST...
 - **Almighty God has hidden something**
 - **WHO FINDS WHAT GOD HIDES?**
 - Remember Christ’s praise for this hiding...
 - **Christ thus supports the Father’s hiding...**
 - **Do you know this Father & Son duo?**

**THINK YOU CAN WIN AGAINST THEM
IN “ETERNAL HIDE & SEEK”?**

➤ **What are “these things”?**

- What *would have led to repentance* (vv.20-24)
- God knew/knows how much grace it takes...
- God chooses to grace some but NOT others.
 - Let this truth in love soak in...
 - Let its theology shape your belief...
 - Let its shocking reality shape your faith.

**WE BETTER LEARN WHO’S WHO
WHEN IT COMES TO GOD’S GRACE
IN ETERNAL HIDE & SEEK!**

(WHO DOES GOD **HIDE** SAVING GRACE FROM
& WHO DOES HE **REVEAL** IT TO?)

**from the wise and intelligent, and
have revealed them to infants.**

- **IN PARTICULAR**, we know the Father has hidden these things from people in Tyre, Sidon, Sodom, Chorizin, Bethsaida, & Capernaum...
- **IN PRINCIPLE**, we know the Father has hidden these things from those here described as “*wise* and *intelligent.*”
 - Context & culture are key here...

- He is **NOT** saying: “those who apply knowledge well” (a.k.a. “a pure wise”).
- **Nor** is He saying: “those who acquire & retain a learned brilliance” (at least not for that sake alone).
- What He **IS** speaking to & about are those whose self-righteousness has led them to think they are good enough without needing to truly repent & come into the kingdom of God through Messiah and His standard of righteous repentance.
- He **IS** directly contrasting the proud vs. the lowly, the broken, & the humble.
- **NOTE:** the intentional hiding is directed to (or away from) those who received the most of Christ’s miracles & grace...
 - **Who will have it worse on Judgment Day... the people of Sodom?**
 - **Or the people of Capernaum?**
 - **Whose sins were bigger/worse?**
 - **Let that question & answer sink in!**

➤ **The same Father who hides... reveals!**

- The infants or baby lovers of God get grace!
- The “little children” or “infants/babes” are not graced because they are humble. No. They are humble because they were graced.
- God knows our hearts & acts appropriately.
- God knows our current AND future hearts...
- See the kingdom of God’s citizenship here...
- See the kingdom of darkness as well...

**SEE THE 2 ETERNALLY DIFFERENT
POSTURES & PEOPLES WHEN IT
COMES TO GOD SOVEREIGNLY
HIDING & REVEALING!**

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

- Hear Jesus here doubling down on His delight!
- Where Christ's "Woe!" was a declaration of divine displeasure...
- "Yes, well pleasing" is definitively divine delight!
- This is like Jesus putting an affirming exclamation mark on the Father's hiding grace from the proud & self-righteous.

**DON'T MISS THE MISSIONAL UNITY
OF THE FATHER & THE SON!**

***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,***

SEE HERE THE SOVEREIGN CIRCLE OF GOSPEL GRACE INFINITELY CLOSING WITH CHRIST!

- Hear, see, believe & apply **John 6:44 & 14:6**
- *This sovereign circle is sealed tighter than a drum!*
- **DON'T MISS THE PERSONAL IMPLICATIONS**

- ***“ALL things”***
 - **GOD'S “ALL'S” ALWAYS MEAN ALL!**
 - This is another “Jesus IS Lord!” verses...
 - This is another ref. to Jesus being Lord of all!
 - *“All things”* includes the *“these things”* of v.20-24

- ***“have been handed over to Me”***
 - This truth in love will be repeated (**Mt.28:18**)
 - See more: ***Trinitarian & missional koinonia***
 - Here the Father is handing over to the Son...
 - Here the Son is receiving from the Father...
 - Our awareness is proof of the Holy Spirit...
 - *“Me”* is now responsible for *hiding/revealing*.
 - **MESSIAH IS SOVEREIGN IN & OVER GRACE!**

- ***“by My Father;”***
 - Jesus again identifies Himself as divine...
 - Jesus is unapologetically bold in declaration
 - Jesus knows how the scoffers will respond

- ***“and”*** (conjunctions always add more...)

- ***“NO ONE”***
 - **THIS IS GOD’S ABSOLUTE TERM...**
 - When God says *“No one,”* He means ***NO one!***
 - No exceptions.
 - No excuses.
 - No escaping.

- ***“knows the Son except the Father”***
 - See a *TRINITARIAN KOINONIA* “knowledge”
 - John 17 helps us understand the vertical...
 - John 17 helps us appreciate the horizontal...

- ***“nor does”*** = parallel truth coming...

- ***“anyone know the Father except the Son”***
 - See a *TRINITARIAN KOINONIA* “knowledge”
 - John 17 helps us understand the vertical...
 - John 17 helps us appreciate the horizontal...

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY
TO THE SON & FATHER EXCEPT
THRU THE FATHER & SON !**

T/S: Jesus is emphatically, crystal clear about His grace...

***and anyone to whom the
Son determines to reveal Him.***

- *Only sovereign Trinitarian grace transforms lives!*
- Only the Father reveals saving, repentant grace!
- Only the Son reveals the grace-filled Father!
 - **Cry out to Christ... thanking the Father!**
 - **Thank the Father in true repentance...**
 - *Change your sinful Head, Heart, & Hands*
 - **Turn from your sin & cleave to Christ!**

Jesus declared that He would “lose none” of “those the Father gives” Him. **CONSEQUENTLY:**

- **Genuine, saving faith is lived out over time with:**
 - **Miraculous transformation & dedication!**
 - *Real repentance vs. mere remorseful feelings.*
 - **Perpetual praise & heart-felt appreciation.**
 - **Worship-full, war-torn, & working witness!**

God’s truth in love is locked in the Trinity!

...and only those that The Son reveals the Father to
will be able to receive the Father’s
revealing of The Son!

- MacArthur

**NOW YOU KNOW WHY WE SAY TO CRY
...TO CRY OUT TO JESUS... WITH A
REPENTANT HEART’S CRY!**

III. We WILL Realize...

28 *“Come to Me...”*

**PEOPLE ONLY COME TO CHRIST WHEN
THEIR HERETICAL VIEW OF
FREE WILL DIES!**

1. When we really REALIZE (miraculously by grace) that we NEED to really REPENT (miraculously by grace), we will...
2. REALIZE we CAN'T really REPENT without MIRACULOUS, Trinitarian GRACE
 - a. **Initiated** by God The Father
 - b. **Inspired** by God The Son (Jesus The Christ)
 - c. **Illuminated** by God The empowering Holy Spirit
3. When we really REALIZE that we really NEED to REPENT, but that we CAN'T really REPENT without Trinitarian GRACE, we WILL both REALIZE and really REPENT, by that grace and through miraculous FAITH, as we answer Christ's call, command, and commission... and “come to” Him.

Next time we will dig deeper into this invitation...

For now, let's see it for what it is on the surface...

“Come”

- Take action
- Obey
- Draw closer

“To”

- Defines an objective...
- Rules out ambiguous or nebulous movement...
- Inspires anticipation...

“Me”

- **“Me” is short for MESSIAH here!**
- **Given what we have just unpacked...**
 - See why Christ come's first
 - See why Christ is the Cornerstone
 - See why Christ is at the center of ALL
 - See why Christ's command is truly loving
 - See why Christ's cross is so defining/critical

**WE DON'T HAVE ABSOLUTE FREE WILL,
BUT PROVIDENTIAL & RESPONSIBLE,
PERSONAL WILL.**

- **Absolute** would require sovereignty...
- **Providential** submits to sovereignty...
- **Responsible** acknowledges will/choice...
- **Personal** stresses the relational aspect...
- **Will** is the object of all these adjectives...

OUR WILL CAN'T BE TRULY FREE WHILE IT'S STILL ENSLAVED TO SIN...

➤ **Is The GOSPEL'S ETERNAL INVITATION!**

- Is RESPONDING to GRACE
- Is REPENTING of SIN
- Is TRUSTING The Bible
- Is OBEYING God & God's Word
- Is GROWING in Christ
- Is LIVING Spirit-led
- Is PRAYING for Guidance
- Is FOLLOWING by Faith
- Is DYING to Self
- Is CARRYING your CROSS
- Is BEING The Church
- Is LOVING One-Another
- Is EQUIPPING the Saints
- Is EXEMPLIFYING supernatural Unity
- Is MINISTERING as Ambassadors
- Is DISCERNING matters Shrewdly
- Is WORSHIPPING God Vertically
- Is EXPERIENCING God Horizontally
- Is PROCLAIMING The Gospel (no matter what!)
- Is FISHING for Men
- Is MAKING Discipled-Warriors
- Is WINNING Spiritual-Warfare
- Is LOVING our King
- Is SERVING His Kingdom.

“Come to Me...” (RESOLVES PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE SIN)

Past: ***Penalty of sin***

Future: ***Presence of sin***

Present: ***Power of sin***

Don't confuse the PRICE of salvation...
with the PROOF of salvation!

- This passage & Christ's teaching, preaching, & reprimanding exemplify the Gospel's sovereign grace & human responsibility relationship.

If/when we realize... we will repent.
We WILL repent because we realize & come.

See **Luther's 5 Solas** here....

We are saved by:

1. ***GRACE alone,***
2. ***Through FAITH alone,***
3. ***In CHRIST alone,***
4. ***Per holy SCRIPTURE alone,***
5. ***For God's GLORY alone.***

*** Titus 2:15 is both explained & exemplified here. ***

***“Declare these things.
Exhort & rebuke with all authority,
let no one disregard you.”***

We need to stop domesticating Christ & His Gospel... Stop thinking we can “manage” The Messiah & His message & methods.

Too much cowardice & compromise are changing Christ’s call, commands, convictions, confrontations, corrections, & commission.

Coming to Christ means being sovereignly chosen by God, providentially called by God, humbly graced by God, biblically repenting before Him, faithfully surrendering to Him, & genuinely loving Him, & perpetually serving Him.

Going for & in Christ means Engaging lost souls, Explaining The Gospel, Equipping Christians with a biblical worldview, Empower maturing leaders to lead, & Exemplifying a Christlike witness as The Messiah’s miraculous missionaries.

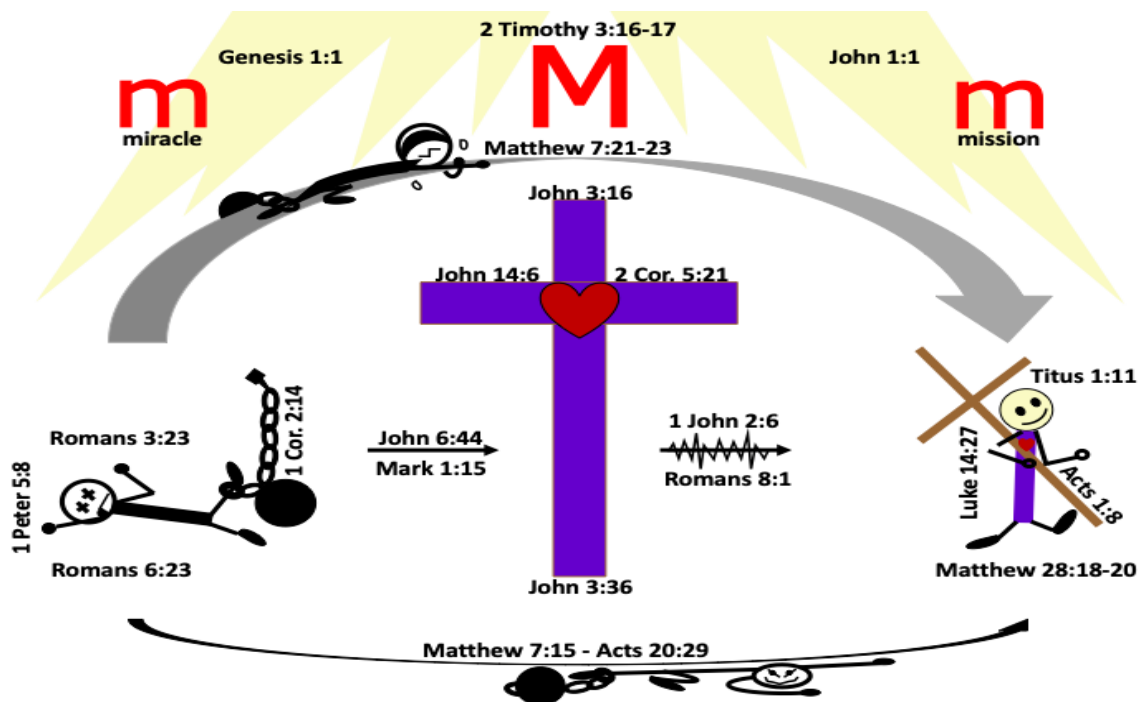
CLOSE:

(THE NEXT 60 MINUTES HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT & POWERFUL 60 MINUTES OF YOUR FOREVER-CONSCIOUS EXISTENCE — BE IT IN HEAVEN OR HELL...)

T/S: So... do you understand The Gospel now?

- What are the 3 essential components?
- What is the foundational essential?
- How biblically do you believe it?
- Are you ready to BE a witness?

Everything we need is in the Trinity's truth, love, mercy, grace, & Gospel!



John 3:16's "*whosoever*" make's clear that the Gospel's invitation of grace is universal, while the miracle of saving grace is supernatural & conditional!

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Biblical faith & repentance, like grace & mercy,
 are both miraculously missional & personally
 powerful, twin-gifts of God.

➤ We need to take this text to heart...

- Present context Matthew 11-13
- Future context: Matthew 28:18-20; Titus 2:15
- Forever context:
 - Justification Ephesians 1-2
 - Sanctification 2nd Corinthians 5:17-21
 - Glorification John 3:16; 8:32 & 36

Harmonizing God's Gospel truth in love is His
 miraculous, Messianic, mission... our part, as
 miraculous, Messianic missionaries is to glorify Him with
 our attitudes & actions, in part, by joining Jesus on

that mission, with our Heads, Hearts, & Hands... going, telling, preaching, reprimanding, & witnessing to the whole world... locally, regionally, & globally... in the context of making disciples who will make disciples who will make disciples... by His grace, for His glory, & thru His Gospel – no matter what!

What are some examples of 2 things that “could” stand alone... but “should” be (and are actually better when) put together?

- Salt & Pepper
- Loving Moms & Dads
- Responsibility & Accountability
- God’s supernatural Truth (IN) Love
- Sovereign Grace & Human Responsibility

“HERE, THE BOTTOM FALLS OUT OF ALL MERIT, ALL POWERS, & ALL ABILITIES OF REASON (OR THE FREE WILL MEN DREAM OF), & IT ALL COUNTS FOR NOTHING BEFORE GOD... CHRIST MUST DO & MUST GIVE EVERYTHING!”

- Martin Luther

PRAYER