

“Hidden Manna”

Mark Smith went to Calvary Chapel Winslow one Sunday morning.

He heard the **three mistakes** that the worship team made in the first four songs they did for worship.

He saw **a teenager talking** to another teenager when everyone was supposed to be praying.

He felt like **the Elders were watching him** to see what he put into the Tithe and Offering Box and it made him mad.

He caught **the Pastor make 6 slips** of the tongue during his study that morning.

He left the sanctuary before the last song was finished and said to himself, ***“I will ever go back there again...”***

Pete Jones also went to that same church on that same Sunday morning and he began to weep as the worship team led them to sing of the Lord’s great Love.

He watched as one of the elders made a few mistakes while doing the announcements and thought, ***“It is sure nice to be in a church where we can make mistakes and still be loved...”***

He loved the fact that no offering was taken up, but instead a box in the back invited the worshipers of God to give privately between themselves and God.

He heard the message that day that challenged him to make a deeper commitment to the Lord and he responded at the end of the service with an open heart.

Both men went to the same service, but had two completely different experiences.

- ☞ **One got mad** and left.
- ☞ **One Got Blessed** and left satisfied.

What made the difference?

Painted on the inside wall of a little church in Yugoslavia are these two verses.

Isaiah 55:6

Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.

Matthew 16:24

... “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Now put those two verses together and you have the reason that Pete Jones Go so blessed and Mark Got so mad.

“Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

Every Sunday and Wednesday that you come here to church, the Lord is here, and He really wants to bless you and satisfy the longing of your heart.

- ⊕ **But we must seek Him**, search for Him, with all of our heart.
- ⊕ **And we must have** a humble and seeking heart.
- ⊕ **We must humble ourselves** before the Lord and come with no selfish agendas or pre conceived expectations, except the expectation that the Lord will speak to us and we will find Him here if we draw near to Him with all of our heart.

Mark Smith was looking for things that he could fault as soon as he walked in the door, and he found many of them, because God’s people and God’s leaders are far from perfect and you can always find their imperfections if you are looking for them...

Pete Joes on the other hand was looking for the Lord, wanting to be blessed, came with an expectant heart and looking for good things.

- ⊕ **Pete found good things**, he found blessing, he left with a full heart and was changed by the power of God’s Love.

Jeremiah 29:13

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

There were thousands of people who came to hear Jesus teach, but most of them went away without ever making a commitment to Him, or obtaining forgiveness of their sins and eternal life.

- ⊕ **Why?**
- ⊕ **Their hearts** were not opened.
- ⊕ **They did not come** expecting to meet God.
- ⊕ **They came with** agendas and selfish expectations.
- ⊕ **They saw the creator** of the Universe face to face, heard His voice and listened to His words but they still missed Him.

If you really want to know the Living God and have a personal relationship with Him, **you must draw near to Him** with ALL OF YOUR HEART, SOUL, MIND AND STRENGTH...

Matthew 11

25 At that time Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden **these things** from the wise and prudent and have **revealed them to babes**.

26 Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight

Matthew 18:3

and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and **become as little children**, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven

Little children are humble, teachable and trusting, and adults are proud, set in their ways and skeptical of everything.

- ☞ **In order** to make it to heaven, you must come through Jesus.
- ☞ **In order to understand who Jesus is** and be able to receive Him, you must be Like a little child: **Humble, Teachable, and Trusting...**
- ☞ **These are the “Babes”** that the Hidden things of God are revealed to that Jesus is speaking of in Matthew 11.

What are the Things that are hidden from most of the world, but revealed to “**Babes**”?

- ☞ **In the Book of Revelation**, there is a special promise that Jesus gives to those who believe and follow Him, that He will give to you “**Hidden Manna**”.

Revelation 2:17

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the **hidden manna** to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it

What is “**Manna**”, and what does it mean “**Hidden**”?

- ☞ **When 2.5 million** people were set free by the Lord out of their slavery in Egypt, as the Lord was bringing them through the desert, they began to complain against the Lord.

Exodus 16:2-4

2 Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

3 And the children of Israel said to them, “Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger

4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, **I will rain bread from heaven for you**. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day,

Exodus 16:15

So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “**What is it?**” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.

The Harmony of the Gospels Bible Commentary by Rob Robinson

The first day that the children of Israel came out to find this new substance on the ground all around them, they said “**What is it?**”

☞ **“What is it?”** in Hebrew is “*Manna*”.

Picture: “What is it?”

Question:

Q: How is manna from heaven like horse hay?

A: Both are food from aloft.

Manna is Bread from Heaven.

☞ **Later in the New Testament**, Jesus began to explain that He was the one that gave the this Bread from heaven Israel when they were in the desert, and that **He was the Real bread from Heaven:**

John 6:31-35

31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, “**He gave them bread from heaven** to eat.’ ”

32 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **Moses did not give you the bread from heaven**, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world

35 And Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life**. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst...”

That is a completely new revelation that no one had ever been told before.

☞ **Whenever the Holy Spirit** is revealing a secret in the Bible that has never been revealed before, He calls it “*A Mystery*”.

Ephesians 3:8-11

8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles **the unsearchable riches of Christ**,

9 and **to make all see** what is the fellowship of **the mystery**, which from the beginning of the ages has **been hidden** in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God **might be made known by the church** to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

11 **according to the eternal purpose** which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

For some reason, the Creator of all things has chosen to reveal Himself and a few glimpses of what He is like, through “**Jesus Church**”, which is **ALL OF YOU!**

One day, when Jesus was teaching the disciples about the Parable of the soils, they really didn’t understand what Jesus was talking about so they asked Him why He didn’t just directly tell them what He meant...

Matthew 13:10-11

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

11 He answered and said to them, “**Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been given.

What in the world are the “**Mysteries of the Kingdom**”?

- ☞ **Here in our Harmony of the Gospels study** this morning, Jesus says that the greatest Mysteries of the Universe are “**Hidden from the Wise**”, but instead “**Revealed to Babes**”.

Matthew 11

25 At that time Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have **hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes**.

26 Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

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

Then Jesus said that the secret things of God are revealed through “**His Church**”, that is all of us.

- ☞ **A question**: How many of you would really like to know the deep, hidden things of God?
- ☞ **How can** these secret things be known?

1 Corinthians 2:7

But we speak the wisdom of God **in a mystery**, the **hidden wisdom** which God ordained before the ages for our glory,

The “**Secret wisdom of God**”, is called the “mystery of God”.

“**Mystery**” in the New Testament is the Greek word: “**Musterion**” (**Moos-tay'-ree-on**)—which means literally—“**To shut the mouth**”, to keep something a complete secret, or a mystery.

Did you know that there are many, many secret things about God that were never revealed in the Old testament to the prophets or to anyone?

- ☞ **Until now**, **they are revealed to you**, though the New Testament, through Jesus Christ and through jess Church.

Ephesians 3:10

“that now the manifold wisdom of God **might be made known by the church**”

There are at least 27 of these “**Mysteries**” that we discover in the New Testament, that were never know in the Old Testament:

1. **The Mysteries of the Kingdom of God:** There are 7 things about the Kingdom of God that are revealed within this first one by 7 Parables:

From Matthew chapter 13... These 7 Mysteries about the Kingdom of God are revealed in the 7 parables that Jesus taught

1. **The 4 types of soils** have to do with the hearts of those that hear about Jesus. (Matthew 13:3-23)
 - ☞ **"The Hard Soil": Those that hear** but don't understand because satan snatches the word from them.
 - ☞ **"The Rocky Soil": Those that hear** and receive Jesus with joy but their roots are not deep so as soon as problems come along they retreat.
 - ☞ **"The Thorny Soil": Those that accept Jesus** but because of the cares of this world they never bear fruit.
 - ☞ **"The Good Soil": Those that hear** and receive Jesus, then go on to bear much fruit in their lives for him.
- 2 **The Wheat and the Tares** (Matthew 13:24-30)
 - ☞ **The wheat are the true and sincere believers**, the tares are the false and pretending believers. They look just like the believers, we can't tell the difference. The Angels at the end of the age will separate the true from the false.
3. **The Mustard seed.** (Matthew 13:31-32)
 - ☞ **The Mustard seed that becomes so large that the "Birds of the air" nest in it.** This is the abnormal growth of the church into mega churches that allows the nesting of the birds, false believers to inhabit it.
4. **The yeast.** (Matthew 13:33)
 - ☞ **Leaven is never spoken of in the Bible in a positive sense**, it is a picture of sin or corruption. In 1 Corinthians it says: Don't you know that a little leaven will leaven the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new lump". This is seen today in the Liberal Scholars who say that the Bible is not the Word of God, that Jesus did not say the things written in the Bible.
5. **The treasure.** (Matthew 13:44)
 - ☞ **The earth is the field:** The Treasure is you, Jesus sells all that he has to purchase the whole field, so that he can get you His treasure out of the earth
6. **The Pearl.** (Matthew 13:45)
 - ☞ **Jesus is the man who discovers the pear**, who is you. He sells everything else that he has to purchase you.

7. **The Fishing net.** (Matthew 13:47-51)

- ☞ **The Good News about Jesus** is like a great net that gathers many people into it, even false pretend believers. At the end, when Jesus returns He will send an angel to sort the true from the false.

These 7 parables are a part of the 1st Mystery that is revealed, now come the other 6 “Mysteries”.

2. **The “Mystery of the hardness of the hearts of the Jewish people”:** This was not understood in the Old Testament. That in rejecting Jesus as their Messiah, the Jews would Bless the rest of the world by giving us the opportunity to receive Jesus. This rejection of Jesus as their Messiah will last only until all of those who will come into the church is complete at the Rapture. (**Romans 11:25**)
3. **The “Mystery of the Gospel” of Jesus:** Previously How the exact form that Salvation would come, was not understood in the old testament. (**Romans 16:25**)
4. **The “Mystery of the Rapture of the Church”:** That Jesus will come before the Tribulation period begins, to remove the Christians who are alive from the earth, and raise all of the Christians who have died to meet Him in the clouds. This principle was not clearly seen or understood in the old testament, but it was hinted at. (**1 Corinthians 15:51**)
5. **The “Mystery of Jesus”:** Who He really is, His person, How He would save us by going to the Cross, was not completely understood in the Old Testament. (**Ephesians 3:4**)
6. **The “Mystery of the Church”:** The Church is not ever seen in the Old Testament, even though there were many hints. (**Ephesians 5:32**)
7. **The “Mystery of the antichrist”:** he is seen in many types in the o/t, but not fully understood. (**2 Thessalonians 2:7**)

These seven Mysteries and the parables within them are a study to themselves that we will take up in detail later on Wednesday night.

Then In Matthew 11, Jesus finishes up the study this morning with these last 3 verses of comfort and instruction:

Matthew 11

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

It is very possible and most often happens, that people that start off following Jesus find a great simplicity in Him.

- ⊖ **They just believe** that Jesus died for their sins and they begins to enjoy this simple new relationship with Him.
- ⊖ **Then as time goes by**, we begin to make that simple relationship very complicated.

As we continue to fail, we start to doubt our salvation and if we are really even saved at all.

- ⊖ **We start off totally** relying upon what Jesus Did for us, then after a while we start relying upon what we can do for Jesus.

In this, we take a “**Yoke upon us**”, that Jesus never desired for us.

- ⊖ **The “Yoke”** was a wooden device that was placed over the back of an Ox so that the load it was carrying would be evenly distributed and not cause any sores on the animal or any pain
- ⊖ **It is interesting** that Jesus spoke of a “**Yoke**” as being the symbol for what He has desired for our life.

Picture of Yoke

[Matthew 11](#)

29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

- ⊖ **If you find that following Jesus** now has become for you a heavy burden, then you have taken upon yourself things that Jesus never desired for you.
- ⊖ **He said** that following Him would be an easy Yoke and a light burden.

Maybe you are worrying about problems that you should not be worrying about, that are Jesus Problem, not yours.

Perhaps you are being a lot harder on yourself for all of your failures than Jesus is, Your salvation rests upon Jesus victory at the Cross, not your daily failures and struggles.

We used to sing a song called: “**He’s got the whole world in His Hands**”, because we wanted to remind ourselves that we needed to place all of our cares ON JESUS, **let our worries and problems rest squarely on His shoulders**, and not carry them ourselves...

This last video clip illustrates this very clearly: Video: “**Whole World**”.