

Matthew 11: The Hidden Things Belong To God's Children

Instructions: As you read the guide and the bible, write down any questions you come across. Try to find the answer on your own, but if you can't or do not know where to look, post your questions in the discussion. If you do find the answers, post your answers in the discussion. Chances are someone else had the same questions and you can help them out.

Summary:

Read Matthew Chapter 11 in the King James Version and compare it to the summaries below.

| Verse | Summary |
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| 1 | When Yeshua was done commanding the 12 disciples, he went into their cities to teach and preach. |
| 2-3 | When John heard of the works Yeshua was doing, he sent two of his disciples to ask Yeshua if he was the one to come, or if they should look for another. |
| 4-5 | Yeshua sent them back to tell John all the things they heard and saw: the blind receiving sight, the paralyzed walking, the lepers cleansed, the deaf hearing, the dead raised up and the poor having the gospel preached to them. |
| 6 | Yeshua said blessed are those <u>who do not try to hinder his teachings</u> . (Actual meaning of the Greek word for offend) |
| 7-9 | He began speaking to the crowd about John. He sarcastically asked them what they went to the wilderness to see. He confirmed they went to see a prophet. He added John was more than just a prophet. |
| 10 | Yeshua informed the people that John was the one whom was prophesied to appear as a messenger who would prepare the way for Yeshua. (Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 3:1, and Malachi 4:5) |
| 11 | He tells the people that although, in that day, there was no one greater than John the Baptist was, even the least in the kingdom of heaven was greater than John. |
| 12-13 | He explained that the kingdom of heaven was taken by force and seized by violent people. He continued to say that all of it was taken - the prophets and the law, until John prophesied. |
| 14 | Yeshua told the people that John the Baptist was Elijah, who was said to be coming – if they would accept it. |
| 15 | He says for those who have ears to hear. |
| 16-17 | Yeshua compared that generation to little children sitting in the markets calling out to others saying, “We played instruments for you and you did not dance and we mourned and you did not wail.” |
| 18 | He said John did not come eating or drinking, yet they say he had a demon. |
| 19 | He continued, when he ate and drank with the tax collectors and sinners they called him a glutton, a drunkard, and a friend to sinners – but wisdom is justified by her actions. |
| 20-22 | He began to denounce the cities where he had done the most miracles, yet they had not repented. These cities included Chorazin and Bethsaida. He said if those same miracles had been performed in Tyre or Sidon, they would have |

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| | repented. He warned that, in the day of judgment, it will be more tolerable for them than for these two cities. |
| 23-24 | He also gave warning for Capernaum, which was exalted to heaven, but would be brought down to hades. He said if the miracles they witnessed would have happened in Sodom, Sodom would still exist to that day. He said it would be more tolerable for Sodom than for them on judgement day. |
| 25-26 | Yeshua gave thanks to God for hiding these things from the wise and the educated and revealing them to children. – For it is good in the sight of God or God’s will. |
| 27 | Yeshua said, all things are given to him by the Father and no one knows the son except the Father and no one knows the Father, except the son and those to whom the son reveals Him. |
| 28 | Yeshua called the burdened people to him that he may give them rest. |
| 29 | He told them to become one with him (yoke) and learn from him, because he is gentle and relies on the Father for his help in his heart and they would find rest for their souls. |
| 30 | Finally, he says we become more useful when we work as one with him and that his load is lighter. |

Instructions: After reading Matthew Chapter 11 in the King James Version and answer the questions below.

1. What are some deeper ideas and themes you notice about the story in Matthew 9?
2. Does anything speak to you?

Bible Study Skills Note 1: Verse 10 - *Yeshua informed the people that John was the one whom was prophesied to appear as a **messenger** who would prepare the way for Yeshua.*

Notice that the word “messenger” is deliberately used in this translation, whereas this same Greek word ‘aggelos’ is always interpreted as “angel” throughout the New Testament. This is only one of two instances throughout the New Testament, where the word is translated as ‘messenger’ instead of ‘angel’.

The translator is attempting to humanize the spirit of John the Baptist, because he was clearly in human form. Meanwhile, in all other 97 instances, the same Greek word is translated ‘angel’ in an effort to dehumanize the characters or have the reader envision them as purely supernatural beings.

I felt this was worthy of noting, because we must realize as we study the bible, that the translators inserted their own ideas, understandings, and biases into the bible translation. Many, if not all, of the bible translators were gentiles who had no understanding of the “hidden things”. They did the best they could with their limited understanding. Such a person cannot reconcile the idea that John was also Elijah making him evidently supernaturally spiritual and human.

“Supernaturally”, in the sense that his spirit had lived once before and was sent back to do a particular work for Yah.

When you keep your mind open to this, you will be prompted to dig deeper for the true message in scripture, when something seems off.

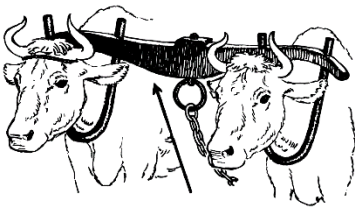
The word angel is used 51 times in the Book of Revelations. Most, if not all, are referring to a divinely guided human messenger, like John or a spiritual messenger, like the Holy Spirit, rather than a giant winged angel.

Just a note to help you with your studies!

Instructions: Take a second look at each of these messages in Matthew 11 and find the lessons hidden within each message.

General Insights:

This is a beautiful message, which is sort of a pleading from Yeshua for the children of the Most High to follow him. He tells us why and how we should follow him. He explains that we must become one with him, learn from him, and carry the load with him. He infers that when we do things together with him, our burdens become light and our walk becomes useful and good.



Courtesy of Wikimedia.com

To understand the significance of this chapter you must know what a yoke is. Like in the picture to the left, a yoke is the device that unites two, making them one strength or one force. It allows the two to be more useful by working together, and more powerful, at the same time reducing the burden, load, or weight that either one must carry.

Bible Study Skills Note 2: A lot of Yeshua’s teaching use terms and metaphors that would be easily understood by people in his days, who worked the farms and fields. Sometimes you must familiarize yourself with these agricultural concepts to completely understand his sayings, teachings, and parables.

The parable John the Baptist gave in Mat 3:12 is another example of this. He demonstrates what the judgement will be like by talking about how a farmer gathers wheat. If you do not know what that process was, then you may not fully understand his saying regarding the judgement.

There are tools for this. If you used Blue Letter Bible, you can look at the meaning of the Greek words to get a better idea of what they are talking about. Google image searches can also be helpful.

To the left is a google image based on my search for 'chaff wheat'. You can see that the 'seeds' or wheat are encapsulated or hidden within the chaff. This may change the way you understand John's saying regarding the wheat and the chaff in Chapter 3 of Matthew.



Insights for Application to Life:

Hidden Truths

In verse 25-26, Yeshua gives thanks to God for keeping certain things hidden from the wise and educated and revealing them to children. So what hidden things are he referring to? To find the answer we must look back at all the things he said to the multitude.

Verses 2-5: John, being a prophet and having witness the baptism of Yeshua and the Spirit of God descending upon him, questions rather Yeshua was or was not the Messiah.

Hidden Truth 1: Even prophets require confirmation of their own prophecy, by way of physical evidence.

Verse 6: Those who do nothing to hinder or circumvent the truth of Yeshua's teachings are blessed.

Hidden Truth 2: Even within ourselves, we must fully receive Yeshua's teachings and not hinder it, nor should we hinder or prevent the reception of his teachings by others.

Verse 7-10 & 14: John was more than just a prophet; he was the prophesied Elijah who would return to prepare the way for Yeshua. Elijah was an Old Testament prophet, who Yeshua says returned in the form of John the Baptist.

Hidden Truth 3: 'Reincarnation' is possible. We serve a limitless God and in this case he sent Elijah back to physical life as John the Baptist.

Verse 11: Yeshua infers that, although John was a prophet and more than a prophet and was the greatest human born to a woman, he was not part of the kingdom of heaven. He said even the least in the kingdom was greater than John the Baptist.

Hidden Truth 4: The kingdom of heaven did not exist in the time of John the Baptist.

Verses 12-13: Yeshua confirmed hidden truth 4. He explains that the kingdom of heaven is something that once existed, but was been seized or being held hostage by violent people. He says that all of it was taken and defined 'it' as the law and the prophets. He says, however, that John's prophecies redeemed the kingdom from its kidnappers.

Hidden Truth 5: The kingdom of heaven are those in obedience to the original law of God, which was given by the prophets.

This makes all the references to it make more sense. Consider this passage from Matthew 7:21.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Yeshua was telling us that we cannot enter into the law, unless we obey it - as it is the will of his Father. Law is not just the rules, but the benefits they bring forth in our carnal and spiritual lives.

Think about the law of gravity, which says what goes up, must come down. Imagine obedience to the law as being glory going up to God and, in effect, His glory returns back to us. There is always a cause and effect to every law, including God's law.

Verse 15: Yeshua instructs those given the ability to hear, to hear what he was teaching - To hear the hidden truths with their spiritual ears.

Hidden Truth 6: Not every person has the ability to 'hear' or receive the truth of the Most High, but those whom God so chooses.

Verses 16-19: Yeshua compares the generation of the scribes and Pharisees to little children seeking a reaction or response from one another. He explained when John did not eat or drink, they said he had a demon; on the other hand, when he did eat and drink, they said he was a greedy drunk. He said wisdom was justified by her actions. We know he is talking about the scribes and Pharisees, because they were the ones saying these things.

Hidden Truth 7: We should not be like the scribes and Pharisees by behaving in certain ways, just to get a particular response out of each other. He says, they are the product of wisdom and demonstrates this by their pettiness. Their 'wisdom' causes them to feel justified or righteous; but they are only righteous in the eyes of their own wisdom.

Verses 20-24: By denouncing certain cities immediately after these sayings, we can deduce that Yeshua is condemning these cities for doing the same thing as the scribes and Pharisees and not repenting of it; therefore, they would experience worse judgment than those cities God had severely judged in the Old Testament.

Hidden Truth 8: One of the worse things we can do in the sight of God is to be like the Pharisees where we believe we are so righteous, that we require no correction or redirection. Or become so self-righteous that we live to judge others and behave certain ways in order to get a particular response out of them.

Verses 25-26: Yeshua openly thanks our Father for hiding the hidden things from the wise and educated and revealing them to his children; because it is God's will.

Hidden Truth 9: Although we may become frustrated with those who just do not get it, we must remember that the Most High is always in control. He makes things as they are, because it is all part of his perfect will. Not every person will hear, repent, and submit to the way of God, because not every person is intended to.

Verse 27: Yeshua says all things are given to him by the Father and only the Father knows the Son and only the Son and those he reveals the Father to, knows the Father.

Hidden Truth 10: Yeshua is still talking about the hidden things he just thanked God for. He is explaining why they are hidden from certain people. He says it's because only the Father knows His children and only His children know the Father. He goes on to say, only His children can reveal the Father to others.

Specifically, the accurate translation of these verses specifies that any person who is not a descendent of the Most High cannot not know Him unless He is revealed to them by one of His descendants.

Verses 28-30: Yeshua calls the burdened people to him and uses an analogy of animals yoked together to do work. He explains that we should become as two in the same yoke, being one force. He also says that we should learn from him because he is gentle and relies on the Father for his help. Those who do these things will find rest.

Hidden Truth 11: Our salvation is in becoming one with Yeshua, who has been given all things from the Father, to share with God's children. This is so we may be saved from the burden and bondage and become more useful in our God-given purpose as kingdom children. He specifies that he saves us by teaching us what God has given him, which is all things, all knowledge, all truth, which is ultimately, all of God's Word. He mentions that he is gentle and, as we ought to, he relies on the Father.

Deep Thought:

1. Do you agree that the kingdom of heaven is those in obedience to God's laws? Yes or No
2. Yeshua says we are to connect to him and learn from him. Are you on that journey? Yes or No
 - a. If not, what are you waiting for? _____
3. Now that you know what salvation truly is, are you saved? Yes or No
4. Specifically, what must you do to be saved? _____

Final Thoughts:

We have been taught many follies in Christianity and American culture. However, when we get to a certain level of spiritual growth we come to accept this fact and repent – correcting our course.

This chapter enlightens us about what we must do to be saved. If we take nothing else from this chapter, we must accept that, to be saved we must first connect ourselves to Yeshua, than learn from him.

He is pleading with us to show us that we belong to the Father and we do not have to go through this life and carry out our God-given purpose alone. He assures us that if we listen to him, we will be much better off.

It is in our fallen nature to want to learn things the hard way. Our parents told us that boy or girl wasn't good for us, but we had to see for ourselves. They told us, "Lying will get you in a heap of trouble", but we lied anyway than wondered with brokenness why bad things always happen to us.

Yeshua is telling us that we must obey God's law. He is demonstrating that what God set before us 1000's of years ago still stands, if we obey him, we will be blessed and if we disobey him we will face trouble.

God is our Father, and he is telling us how to avoid strife and live in His presence, peace, favor, and blessings. The first five books of the bible tells us exactly what to do to remain under the protection of our Father and Yeshua teaches us this in Matthew as well.

As we continue our spiritual journey, we learn to elevate to the place where God wants us to be. Wherever you are in your journey, chapter 11 is a good reminder that we must become one with Yeshua, learn from him, and never become self-righteous or righteous according to our own wisdom. Most importantly, we must be yoked to him, taking every step as he takes it, going every place that he goes, being everything that he is.

The keys to the kingdom of heaven, is obedience to God's law. His law is not one sided. Like the law of gravity, what goes up must come down. God receives glory through your obedience to Him and gives to you His glory in the form of increase, which in turn gives Him greater glory. He gives you even greater glory than the last glory you sent up to Him and, again, He sends down even more... it goes on and on and on. This is the kingdom of heaven – to glorify him with your obedience that He may increase you and receive increased glory.

What is glory? Glory is increase; specifically the Hebrew word for glory actually means heavy, abundance, wealth, honor, importance, or respect. You increase God's presence on earth by living a right life as He instructs us to and in return, He increases us that we may increase His kingdom all the more. Several parables that we will learn in Matthew will confirm this.

See, God's law, as we have been taught it, is just a bunch of rules that we must obey or go to hell. But, as you can see there is so much more to it than that. We must obey Him in order to become a prosperous people and show the world that being right in the eyes of the Father brings

increase and the ways of the unrighteous are a lie and a deception by the devil. This is the light we have been charged to be to the world.

Besides, is a father who does not teach his children to be protected and separate from those who seek to kill them, a good father?

It is time we see the bigger picture and destroy the devil's lies, by being what God created us to be - both righteous and prosperous. He is our creator, provider, our redeemer, our savior, and the lover of our souls.

No one else can ever love us the way he does, so why don't we trust him with that which he has given us? If a man generously gives you \$100, would you then be afraid to allow him to keep it for you? Why haven't we put our lives back into His hands?

Who is deceiving us to believe that they can do a better job at fathering God's children than He can? Did your money create you and set you apart as a chosen person? Did your family bring you into this world to serve a divine purpose? Maybe your job delivered your ancestors out of Egypt 5000 years ago and will deliver you out of bondage again now?

When your heart is broken and you feel the world has abandoned you, will you turn to the world for comfort?

When one whom you love is laying on their deathbed and the doctors have given up, in whom will you trust to deliver them or to give you comfort as you mourn? Will it be your boss, your family, the doctor, your money, your friends, Facebook or Instagram, television, your education? Who else can give you comfort in your hour of fear or grief?

So, why then do we turn to all these things first and to our Father last or not at all? Why don't we just obey Him and avoid all the terrible things this world has to offer?

He loves you and wants to redeem you from your blindness and from your dependency on this world. Let Him, by being obedient to His Word and will!

Remember, if you have questions ask. If you don't have questions then share what you've learned in the discussion group so you can help others to understand.