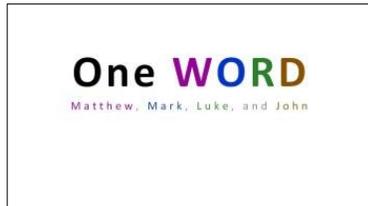


Weaving the Word

Revealed to Children

November 4, 2018

Welcome to where we're learning how to become like children!



How childlike are you? We'll score ourselves today.

The book is coming along really well. Just crazy, incredible, stuff going on! And God gave me a *huge encouragement* this week. **I've used Isaiah's line-upon-line principle as a basis for weaving the Gospels into chronological order without guesswork.**

Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards ... Behold, the Lord has a mighty and strong one ... who will bring them down to the earth with His hand. ... They are swallowed up by wine ... they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filth; no place is clean. **Whom will he teach knowledge?** [Of what? According to Jesus: *Everything* (Mk 4:22; Lk 8:17)] And **whom will he make to understand the message?** [What message? *It's coming up*] Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? **For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.** [That's the message] For with stammering lips and another tongue [as recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John] He will speak to this people, to whom He said, "This is the rest ... This is the refreshing"; yet they would not hear. But the **word of the Lord** [that is, *Scripture*] was to them, "**Precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little,**" That they might go and fall backward, and be broken and snared and caught. – Isaiah 28:7-13 NKJ

Jesus is in Jerusalem with the seventy-two.

He just publically denounced the woeful cities that had rejected the Good News of His Gospel in spite of all His confirming miracles. *And ...*

At that time Jesus rejoiced in **the Spirit** and **answered** and **said**, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have **hidden** these things from the **wise and prudent** [Stop for a second. Why would God hide truth from the wise and prudent? According to Proverbs, Wisdom's goal is to make us wise and prudent. *So, that's a riddle!*] and have revealed them to babes. **Even so**, [or: *Yes (because this is His answer)*] Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. – Mt 11:25-26; Lk 10:21 NKJ



The NIV leaves out the word "**answered**" because there's no question. So, **who's He answering?** Well, He's obviously directing His answer to the "**Father**". So, the real question is: where does God ask the question, that Jesus' response would be an appropriate answer for?

Only one place. Any guesses? Isaiah 28.

Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message [of line-upon-line, here-a-little there-a-little]? **Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts?** [Yes!] – Isaiah 28:9 NKJ

“... Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.”

As Isaiah line-upon-lines in chapters 38, 65, and 5 ...

... I have walked before You in *truth* and with a *loyal heart*, and have done *what is good in Your sight*. – Isaiah 38:3b NKJ

I have stretched out My hands all day long to a *rebellious people*, who walk in a way that is *not good*, according to their *own thoughts*; – Isaiah 65:2 NKJ

Woe to those who call *evil good*, and *good evil*; who put *darkness for light*, and *light for darkness*; who put *bitter for sweet*, and *sweet for bitter*! Woe to those who are **wise in their own eyes**, and **prudent in their own sight!** – Isaiah 5:20-21 NKJ

Look at that. The answer to Jesus’ riddle: Why would God hide truth from the **“wise”** and **“prudent”**? Because they’re “wise in their own eyes” and “prudent in their own sight”. **He’s not just answering Isaiah, He’s weaving Isaiah!**

He’s demonstrating the very principle that He’s confirming, by weaving Isaiah 5 into His answer to the question in Isaiah 28.



But to learn, we must become what He’s called us to be: *children*. Why? Well, they’re not wise in their own eyes.

Little children are humble. They know that they don’t know pretty much anything. How do you score on that?

Isaiah tells us that *God’s* children are given a huge help.

For unto us a *Child* is born, unto us a *Son* is given; and the government will be upon *His shoulder*. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to **order it** and **establish it** with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The *zeal* of the *Lord of hosts* will *perform this*. – Isaiah 9:6-7 NKJ

That’s another thing, **little children are eager**. They have *zeal*. **They want to know everything.**

How’s your score on *that*?

The thing that’s limiting everyone from seeing everything is that **they’ve concluded that what they don’t know is unknowable**; and **they’re unwilling to accept truth that isn’t on their terms**.

Pride is only willing to accept truth on its terms.

And our terms usually limit God's truth, life, and authority.

And, **little children are curious.** They firmly believe they *can know everything* if they just ask enough questions. **We put a cap on what we can know, and what His Word can do.**

Putting God in a box is what adults do. **That's why we quit before we ever begin.**

But, it's insanely arrogant to tell God what He can and can't do.

Write it before them on a tablet, and note it on a scroll, that it may be for time to come, Forever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, lying children, ***children who will not hear the [instruction] of the Lord***; – Isaiah 30:8-9 NKJ

Woe to those who rise early ... that they may follow intoxicating drink; ... but they do not regard the work of the Lord, nor consider ***the operation of His hands***. – Isaiah 5:11-12 NKJ

Woe to those who draw iniquity with ***cords of vanity***, and sin as if with a ***cart rope***; ... Woe to those who ... who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are ***wise in their own eyes***, And ***prudent in their own sight!*** Woe to men mighty at drinking wine ... – Isaiah 5:18, 20-22 NKJ

“Woe to the rebellious children,” says the Lord, “Who take counsel, but not of Me, and who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, ***that they may add sin [upon] sin***”; – Isaiah 30:1 NKJ

They err in *vision*, they *stumble* in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filth ... – Isaiah 28:7-8 NKJ

Pause and wonder! ... They *are* drunk, *but not* with wine; they *stagger*, but not with *intoxicating drink*. For the Lord has poured out on you the spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes ... The *whole vision* has become to you like the words of a book that is *sealed* ... and ***their fear toward Me is taught by the [precepts] of men*** ... – Isaiah 29:9-11, 13 NKJ

Even the ***sea monsters*** draw out the *breast*, they ***give suck to their young ones*** ... – Lamentations 4:3a KJV

The Lord with His ***severe sword*** **[His Word]**, great and strong, will punish ***Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan that twisted serpent***; and He will slay the *reptile* that is in the sea. In that day sing to her, “A *vineyard of red wine!*” – Isaiah 27:1b-2 NKJ

Though *evil* is *sweet* in his *mouth*, and he *hides* it under his *tongue*, though he spares it and does not forsake it, but *still* keeps it in his *mouth* ... it becomes *cobra venom within him*. He swallows down riches and ***vomits*** them *up again* ... He will ***suck*** the *poison* of *cobras*; the *viper's tongue* will slay him. In his *self-sufficiency* he will be in *distress* ... – Job 20:12-16, 22 NKJ

Little children are not self-sufficient ... and they know it.

They're deeply dependent ... and they know it.

And, **little children are accustomed to being corrected.**

They're not even embarrassed about being wrong.

That's something we learn as we grow ... *in pride.*

Little children are open. They believe in miracles and magic. If I tell a child they can understand everything about God *and* His Word *completely*, because it's a matching game, you'd look at me like I'm crazy, but they'd say, "What are we waiting for?"

They haven't learned to be cynical about God.

But, when has God ever acted in a predictable fashion?

Little children are playful. Children work hard at playing. They love hide and seek and treasure hunts. **Adults prefer their religion to resemble a business transaction.**

Little children cry out for help.

They're not embarrassed to admit they don't know things.

Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you; ... blessed are all those who wait for *Him*. ... He will be very gracious to you *at the sound of your cry*; when He *hears it*, He will *answer you*. – Isaiah 30:18-19 NKJ

And, little children are not ashamed to ask for exactly what they need.

Anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. – Mark 10:15b NIV

I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. – 2 Cor 11:3 NIV

Rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. – 1 Peter 2:1-3 NIV

But above all, little children are trusting and loving.

So, how childlike *are* you?

Jesus' answer to the Father is all about what we're doing.

This is how it works. And it's not *just* the Gospels, but the *whole Bible*.

And Jesus goes on ... but sadly, we don't ... *until next Sunday*.