

June 18, 2017

## The Mission of the Kingdom: The Opposition (2)

**Matthew 11:16-30**

### **This Generation** (v. 16-24)

- Jesus uses John's question to address the crowds about their rejection of John and Himself.
- The issue was not the method of ministry (to eat or not to eat) but the ministry itself. Methods of ministry may vary by the Spirit but the ministry of the Spirit will be the same.
- Their rejection of Jesus moved Him to pronounce a *woe* against them. By freely rejecting Jesus' works among them, they were not just rejecting the grace of God but the God of grace.

### **Hidden Wisdom** (v. 25-27)

**1 Cor 1:21** *For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know Him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe*

- It is not that Jesus thanks God for those who reject Him, but that He thanks God for revealing Him and His works to little children.
- “Little children” are those who have been given (**Ez. 36:25-27**) childlike faith to believe and receive (**John 1:13; Eph. 2:8-9**).
- This revelation is the Father’s sovereign work:

**Rom 8:28-30** *“and we know that God [the Father] works all things together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified...”*

- “Those whom He foreknew” does not have to do with knowing ahead of time that we would do the good work of receiving Christ (**Rom. 3:10**), but that God chose us in Christ *before the foundation of the earth* (**Eph. 1:4**) as His beloved children conformed to the image of his son.
- This is not a foreknowledge of works but a foreknowledge of relationship.

**1 Peter 1:20** *[Christ] was foreknown before the foundation of the world...*

## **Come to Me** (v. 28-30)

- As a consequence of God's eternal purpose to save His people, Jesus calls all of those who belong to the Father to come to Him and to find rest for their souls.
- Jesus calls all of those whom the Father has foreknown to find rest from the labor and burdens of their sin so that they may be freed to walk and live by the Spirit.
- Do you have trouble with God's Right to choose whom He will save?