

“At that time Jesus prayed this prayer: “O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way!”  
Matthew 11:25-26 NLT

## lectio // Matthew 11:25-30

A Jesus prayer. Anyone else think this is an odd prayer? That's what I thought, no one. Father thank you for hiding stuff? I love challenges, well at least these puzzle, fix it type of problems. I like to find solutions that haven't ever been thought of. What kind of "things" do you think Jesus was talking about? Aren't the clever and wise, the dilemma solvers of our world? Jesus says, "no," these kinds of things are revealed to the childlike. The simple, filled with wonder, eternally curious, playful in all kinds of imagination types - like every kid I know that wants to PLAY because that's how they WORK. You want a child to work, give them something to turn it into play and they'll do it with joy for hours. I don't think Jesus is talking about turning over the secrets of the universe to playful children, but you begin to see the difference between arrogance and innocence. One already knows all, one wants to learn. So not only is Jesus revealing a truth in this prayer, he goes on to talk about how important it is to live this life of curious simplicity. He says, "Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Yokes get talked about a lot in sermons, but only farmers really know what that's all about. I just know it's something oxen wear when they WORK. Did you know that animals like to work? They do. Other than cats, who like to frustrate you, most animals find joy and purpose in working. Jesus ties the "revealing" these things to letting him TEACH us. And when Jesus teaches us he is patient and gentle. Not only do we begin to understand the mysteries of God better, we get to find them in the most playful, restful ways. Does any of that sound like work? To a humble, curious human who loves to learn it is playful, purposeful. And the Father is pleased to do things this way! it also sounds a lot like faith because we know how much God gets a kick out of us trusting him.

## oratio

Dad,

Thank you for gaming our growth, playfully hiding the things you really care about so that we will purposely go and find them, actively looking for them like any child playing hide-n-seek. Because when we look, when we seek - we will find.... YOU, and all the things that stress us and make us anxious will de prioritize themselves to make room for what's most important. To trust you, to depend on you, to have faith (like a child) in you. It's interesting that our real work is LETTING GO not figuring out how to fix or solve everything.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root