

**Childlike Receptivity**    Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time    Wednesday, July 19, 2017  
8:15 AM    Ex 3:1-6, 9-12;    **Mt 11:25-27**    (Words and ideas and thoughts are very poor receptacles of the divine reality.)

**“No one knows the Father except the Son, no one knows the Son except the Father.”**

In these ways Jesus indicated that he had a very unique and indeed extraordinary relationship with God. Ordinarily fathers and sons do not consider themselves equal, but then this is not an ordinary way of speaking. **Jesus is revealing this intimate connection he has with God**, whom he calls “Father.” He identifies himself as Son presumably because not that he has been sired by God, but that **he shares this being with the Father**; but at the same time he is fully and totally human, and so **he wants his listeners to see him as one of them, a son or daughter of the heavenly Father**. So this is really the mystery of the incarnation being expressed in a very simple way.

And by the way, this very text says, **“You have hidden from the learned and the clever.”** Of course what is being referred to here by learning and cleverness is the work of the human mind, **the human reason**, which is a remarkable creation itself and which is created to help human beings really become the dominant species, to help human beings become co-creators with God in what is to come, participants in the kingdom. But words and ideas and thoughts are very poor receptacles of the divine reality.

**The divine reality connects itself to us taking the initiative and we become receptive to that when we are childlike.** When you think of children the whole image of a child is the image of receptiveness. Now you say, “Oh, but my kid is really rebellious.” Well that’s actually part of their trying to adapt to life in this world. But **children are of themselves naturally receptive**. For example, if they grow up in a house where English is spoken, what do you see, all of a sudden they are speaking English, not some other language and not no language. They receive;

they receive the identity that they have as growing up in a particular place with a particular family. It doesn't have to be taught them; they just get it. They absorb it.

Well this is about absorbing something of the divine, about allowing this to take place. The problem is we often don't allow it **once we get a little older**. As we meet with the world we have to become a little bit more wary. We have to mind our Ps and Qs, so to speak. We can't afford to be utterly trusting because we see the world isn't utterly trustworthy. So we start to become a little bit cut off, a little bit defensive. And in that **we block the grace of God that wants to reveal itself to our childlike receptivity**.