

Revelation Is for Everyone

Intro. I. Prior to this chapter of Matthew's gospel, the Lord was struggling with some towns and people who rejected both him and John the Baptist before him. They refused to see and hear. His observation was that people - especially the Pharisees and some leaders who thought they knew everything – were not open to something or *Someone* new. The people who seemed to more easily understand his message were the “little ones,” his disciples and others outside the usual influential groups of the time. That may be why the Lord spent most of his time in the country places and away from the larger cities. The prayer Jesus said was one of thanksgiving that the Father revealed himself to people who “nobody thinks of as wise or learned” [M. McGlone, *America*, 7/9/17].

It seems part of being human that the more we *think* we know about life and people, the less we think we need to *learn*. Some people feel there is no need to keep reading or talking with each other; that we have all the information we need. One of the amazing parts of our history celebrated last Tuesday is that the men and women who decided to declare our independence had very different ideas about how to do it. We can read the many long debates about the details but in the end they *listened* to each other and made a plan they could sign their names to. For many years the Christian community was divided because each could not believe others had any truth. It was rare that people discussed anything, preferring to believe all kinds of erroneous rumors. We have made some real progress. We found we share much more than we don't. I meet with several local

pastors, including our immediate neighbor, to discuss ministry and how we might work together and support each other. This seems more what we should be doing in all parts of our lives: listening more and talking less. I think we learn more that way.

Because I used to live near there, I remembered last week was the start of scallop season in the Gulf of Mexico. Scallops are the shellfish that a certain gasoline company uses as its logo. They live in shallow, grass-bottom waters. You find them by snorkeling above the sea grass until you see them. I went scalloping once. At first I couldn't find any. They don't lie flat [hand facing group]; they are sideways [hands joined, fingers facing group] and hard to see in the grass. A friend had to point to one

for me to realize what I was looking for. When I saw them clearly I started picking them up quickly.

Concl. God reveals himself to *everyone*, but due to our own ideas, we are often unable to see him immediately. Looking for God to reveal himself is often a difficult process, kind of like looking for scallops for the first time. We *think* we know what we're looking for but often can't find the Lord. We sometimes discover his presence when we are *looking* for him and when we are *not*. A friend or even a stranger often has to take our hand and point to where the Lord is for us to recognize him. Finding the Lord doesn't mean life is easier; it just makes life *a little easier to understand* some days. I am thankful for the men and women in my life who have taken the time to show me the Lord. Both by their words and by their actions.