



Dear friends,

In this Sunday's gospel, St Matthew 11:25-30, Jesus exclaims: 'I bless you Father of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children.' (Mt 25:11). What sort of things is Jesus talking about?

Perhaps this story will give us some insight. *A young man entered the coach of a small train in a university town in France. The ink was scarcely dry on his new degree. As the train sped off toward Paris, the young man took his seat next to an elderly man who seemed to be dozing. As the train suddenly lurched, a string of rosary beads fell from the old man's hands. The young man picked up the rosary and handed them to the elderly man with the remark: "I presume you are praying sir?" "You are right I was praying." "I am surprised," said the young man, "that this day and age people believe in such things. Our professors at the University do not believe in such things. Today enlightened people don't believe in such things." "You don't say," replied the old man. "Sir, if you wish I can send you some illuminating books." "Very well, said the old man. "You can send them to this address." He handed the young man a card which read:*

Louis Pasteur

Director of the Institute of Scientific Research,

Paris

We know that Louis Pasteur, at the beginning of the last century discovered vaccines for incurable diseases, and that his vaccines saved millions of lives. It is also obvious that Pasteur had a deep faith in God, and that faith and science were crucial to his life. He was able to bring the two together as two great belief systems.

This is what Jesus is talking about today when he speaks of 'hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children.' Jesus wants us to be 'childlike' not 'childish.' Being childlike means being open and trusting. It means being able to receive what Jesus is offering to us: the love of God, and how we can live that love through gentleness and forgiveness of one another. But, being 'childish' is often reflected in all the negative ways of the world: selfish, losing our temper, being mean-spirited.

Everyone, adults and children alike, are called to be 'childlike' in this world. Even as we grow into being adults, and learning and studying the great wonders of the Universe, it is important to remember that we can achieve all these things, and become admired for what we have achieved. But it is the simplicity and faith of great men like Louis Pasteur, who is remembered for his gift of saving human life, who has its foundation in the faith of Jesus who came to save all men and women.

[Fr Kelvin](#)