

John 6:35-59 Those Who Come to Jesus (part 2)

Last week, from our text, we considered the most glorious of all doctrines, namely **The Father from All Eternity Has Given a People to the Son**. I've got a book on my shelf called, *From Heaven He Came and Sought Her* . . . This is the Church. Today, we gather as the chosen people of God given to the Son! And the entire Bible unpacks this truth for us. Today, we will follow this foundational doctrine with part 2, as we continue Jesus' teaching from the Gospel of John. We have seen that Those Who Come to Jesus are chosen. But that's not all. I have 4 more truths from this text about those who come to Jesus. Here they are: Those who come to Jesus are: 1) Drawn by God, 2) They are taught by God, 3) They abide, and 4) They will be raised on the last day. I only have 2 for today.

1. Those who come to Him are drawn by God. Look at v. 44: **"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him . . ."** This word can be translated as "tug" like two teams pulling a rope in a tug of war. It can be translated as "draw" like in John 21:6 as the disciples draw their fishing net to the boat. This word can be used to describe a magnet, drawing metal to itself. It can also mean to "*compel*," though not with the use of force. So, what does it mean that God "draws"? Roman Catholics teach what is called "*prevenient*" grace. They teach that God gives every person grace. And it is up to each individual to respond to God as He, in some way "calls" them or "woos" them or "draws" them to come to him. I think there are many in the church today that teach in this way. But, I do not believe this is what the Bible teaches as a whole. Nor does this passage teach this view. So, what is this "drawing?"

I believe this "drawing" is another way of describing the powerful work of God to bring his people to himself. One picture may be drawing water from a well. The water does not come out unless the bucket is let down to draw the water. A force must come from the outside in order for the water to come out. Another picture may be a mother hen who gathers her chicks to herself to keep them from danger. She "draws" them in. As I studied this word further this week, I found that the Greek OT uses this same word in Jer 31:3. So, what is happening in Jer. 31 that may help us understand this "drawing"? Well, Babylon is in process of conquering the southern Kingdom and Jerusalem and many Israelites have already gone into exile. So, Jeremiah reminds them of God's steadfast love and his faithfulness (ESV). In the KJV, we read these words, **"The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."**

Brothers and sisters, here we see the powerful work of God. But . . . the emphasis is not so much on his power, but on his loving faithfulness to Israel. If we keep reading in Jer. 31, we will see God's promise to bring the exiles back physically. BUT, there is much more promised. In Jer 31 he speaks of a NEW COVENANT with the house of Israel. In vv. 33-34 he says, **"I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother,**

saying, ‘**Know the Lord,**’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

This is the context for the Apostle John here in cp. 6. Here we see that those whom the Father has given to the SON are “drawn.” And this drawing is powerful; it is effectual. It accomplishes its purpose. But, the emphasis is on the loving kindness of God to fulfill his promises to his people. He draws us because he loves us. Really, I believe this is another way of describing God’s powerful “call” upon his people. I think of Rom. 8:28-30: “**And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 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. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.**”

So, how can we apply this truth? I think many see this verse (also John 12:32) and either say that God draws all people in the same way. Or, they think, “*God doesn’t draw all people; therefore He is not fair.*” But, if we are careful and read our Bibles (OT and NT) and use the ENTIRE Bible to teach us, we will see that John is merely using OT language to teach new covenant truths. And, as we continue it will become obvious that God only draws his people. But, even deeper than this truth is the truth that God fulfills his purpose. And this purpose works its way down to us in steadfast love. Listen to the words of Paul in Eph. 1:3-6: “**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.**”

So, if you are a Christian today, God has powerfully drawn you to himself. And the effect of this is that you choose Jesus. And, you don’t do this kicking and screaming. Every Christian who comes to Christ wants to come to him. And there are not those out there in the world who want to come to Christ, but God does not let them. This is mysterious. But, God works in such a way that our desires are to come to Jesus.

2. Those who come to Him are taught by God. Look at v. 45: “**It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.**” Here, Jesus refers back to the prophets (in plural) who speak of a day when ALL God’s people will be taught by God. As we have seen, these are the SAME people who have been chosen before the foundations of the world and given to the Son, those whom God powerfully draws with lovingkindness. And then, Jesus says these same people COME to him . . . they BELIEVE in him. Of course, Jesus is thinking of Jeremiah 31:31-34. But, in this context he is probably quoting from Is. 54. (Turn there with me.) So, what is happening in Is. 54? In this chapter God is repeating his promise to Israel. In v. 1 he says, “**Sing, O barren one, who did not**

bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married." And then in v. 2, **"Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out . . ."** I love the picture of a tent. I remember going camping with Kristen and our 3 older kids at the time (not sure Abby made it or not on one of those trips). (Retell the story of the natural spring and how small our tent was and how I wanted a bigger tent.)

It is not quite the same picture, but God is saying to Israel, *"I will give you a larger tent. And this tent will encompass the world."* He was saying, *"You are barren now. You are desolate now. Your sins are great. You are an idolatrous people. What can come of you!"* *"But, wait, I will do a great work in you. There is coming a day . . ."* in v. 3, when **"your offspring will possess the nations and people the desolate cities."** In other words *"Look to the ends of the earth . . . where so many of my people will be found."* In v. 7 he says, **"For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you"** (sound familiar to "drawing" you)? And then down in v. 13 he says, **"All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children . . ."** (For some extra homework, see Is. 55 for another wonderful description.)

Brothers and sisters, this is the promise in Is. 54 to which Jesus refers. And then notice AGAIN what he says in the 2nd part of v. 45: **"Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me."** Here, he is equating being *"taught by God"* with *"coming to him."* In other words, ***"if you've seen me, you've seen the Father"*** (John 14:9). *"If you learn from me you learn from God."* Now, what is our immediate context? Feeding of the five thousand, "bread from heaven." Jesus HIMSELF is the bread from heaven. So, in the same way, Jesus HIMSELF has the same authority as God. And HE is the ONE standing before them teaching them. His words ARE God's words. And those who come to him are the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophesy. Jesus is saying, *"Your ancestors followed Moses to Mt. Sinai. And there, you heard the voice of God, but you did not see him. And YES, you were taught by him there at the mountain, but it was only by his voice . . . you did not see him"* (v. 46). But, here I am standing before you, the ***"the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"*** (1:14). *"Your coming to me is proves that you are 'taught by God.'"* Brothers and sisters, this is the Church of Jesus Christ. God HAS and IS fulfilling his promise to send his Son, the Messiah, the Savior of the World. This is what we are doing when we gather!

This is why, when we take the Lord's Supper, we repeat the words of Jesus, **"This cup is the new covenant in my blood."** Today, WE . . . the Church ARE the fulfillment of Is. 54:13: *"All of them will be taught by God."* Through his sinless life, his death on the cross, his resurrection, and his ascension to the Father, Jesus inaugurates this new covenant, that is now filling the earth. This is the Church. And He will build his Church! With this in mind, I want to make some comments and some applications to finish up.

Comment: I hope it is clear to you, especially after last week that God has given a specific people to the Son. And this week, we see that with those SAME people God draws and the

SAME people God teaches. Think back to Jer. 31:33-34. What does Jeremiah say as he looks forward to the new covenant in Christ. **“I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”** Jeremiah doesn’t say this, but Ezekiel adds in describing this new covenant. In 36:27 God says, **“And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”**

What does this mean for us? For you? It means so much! Let me mention some of them as applications.

1. Your salvation is dependent upon the sovereign work of God. He is the One who decrees. He is the one who initiates. He is the one who sends his Son from to come from heaven and gather you. This must promote the greatest of praise!
2. God is the one who teaches you (We say the same of the Son and the Holy Spirit). But, this means the one standing at the front of our classroom is God. HE is our teacher. This is what we are getting in John 6:45 ***“All of them will be taught by God.”*** So, all of us must ask ourselves, *“who is teaching us?”* Is the world your teacher? Are you learning more from the attitudes you see on tv or on the radio or on the internet? To what extent are the things of this world teaching you?
3. God is the one who works in you by his Spirit. Phil. 2:13 says, ***“for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”*** Phil. 1:6, Paul says, ***“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”*** Today, if you are a Christian, if you have been drawn by the lovingkindness of God and are being taught by him, you must find great encouragement in a verse like 1 Cor. 10:13: ***“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”*** (We will see this truth more next week.)
4. The Bible . . . this text in particular does not allow some kind of half-way come to Jesus. (*“Make him your savior but not your Lord”*). In all of these truths from last week, this week, and next week, I think we must come to see that Christianity is a sure thing. God does not leave some things out. Now, I believe we are all at different places in our sanctification. But, ALL God’s people come to Jesus. They love him. They follow him. Their hearts are repentant. I think at the end of the day our devotions are real, even in the midst of our ongoing battle with sin.
5. The church is not a mixed community. The language of the new covenant is, *“I will put my law with in them. I will write it on their hearts. I will be their God. All of them will know me. I will forgive their sins. I will put my spirit within them. I will cause them to obey my word.”* This is why I am a Baptist and not a Presbyterian.