John 6:35-59 Those Who Come to Jesus (part 4)

Today, I want to conclude with part the 4th sermon entitled "Those Who Come to Jesus." Throughout the Book of John and particularly here in cp. 6 John emphasizes the words of Jesus in v. 35: "**I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger** . . ." We see the words "*come to me*" and "*comes to me*" 6 times in this chapter. And what does it mean to "come" to Jesus? This is TRUE faith. This is TRUE belief . . . belief in the Son of God who gives eternal life. As God gave manna in the dessert that his people might live (physically), so God gives his Son from heaven, who is the TRUE manna. And whoever comes to him, whoever believes in him has ETERNAL life. And ONLY the Son gives such life.

And, by way of reminder through the first 3 sermons, we have seen that those who come to the Son have been given to the Son by the Father. And this is an eternal covenant. This means that those who come to the Son are chosen by God. And then, those who are chosen by God are "drawn" by him. And, those who are drawn are "taught by God" in a way by which the world is not taught. And, those who are taught . . . "abide," they remain, they find their source of life in the Son who is God in the flesh. And finally, today, we will see that those who come to Jesus will be raised on the last day. Four times in this chapter John uses the word "last day" (See 39, 40, 44, and 54). We see this phrase in John 11:24 with the story of Lazarus. "**Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."** We also find this phrase in John 12:48 as Jesus says, "**The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day**."

So, I think our big truth is this: the Son will raise those who come to him on the last day. But, in order to understand this truth, I think we must first consider this "day" of which John and Jesus speak. I have 3 truths about this day with a number of applications to follow.

1. A Day of Finality. Jesus says, "***I will raise you up on the LAST day***." He describes this day as the "last" day. Here, we begin to see the eschatology of John. In our context with John's gospel, this is yet to happen. In our story, Jesus is pointing to the future. As he speaks to the Jews of his day, he refers to something with which they agree. God has fixed a DAY, a FINAL day, a day in which He will bring certain things to an end. It is this end to which EVERYTHING as we know . . . is headed. When I/you read a book, we know there is an end coming. There is a final page to the story. The author of the book has written the story with a very clear end in mind. And this isn't a Book with 3 . . . or 4 volumes that may leave us hanging without some kind of finality. So is this FINAL DAY.

I will not spend much time showing this truth from the Bible. But, Paul sums up the finality of this DAY in his sermon to the Corinthians, saying, God "**has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead**" (Acts 17:31).

Application: For the Christian, this is a day of great expectation. It is a day with which we look forward to with great anticipation.

2. A Day of Judgment. I don't get this truth straight from v. 44. But, our context is clear. If we go back to John 5 we see that Jesus has already established that judgment has been given to him. Look back to 5:27: "**And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man**." In these words, Jesus is claiming to have the same authority of God to judge. In 3:35 John says, "**The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand**." Or, in John 5:22: "**For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son** . . ." So, when we come to 6:44 and see Jesus referring to the LAST day, we know this will be a day of Final judgment over which He Will Be Lord!

A good picture may be the mother saying to the disobedient child, "*Wait until your father gets home*." The meaning is clear. She is saying, "*I am pronouncing judgment, but the reckoning is coming later, and it is SURE to come when he gets home*!" The Bible is clear from beginning to end: There will be a final day of judgment!

Now, there have been many days of judgment throughout history as the prophets often speak of that God will judge some kind of finality. A good example in the OT is the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. The prophets spoke of this "day" for many years before it FINALLY came. There have been, and will be many "days" of God's judgment upon nations, peoples, institutions, etc. Yet, all these days are only precursors to the Final Day of judgment. We still wait for this FINAL DAY when sin, death, and the devil will be ultimately defeated.

Quick Application: On that Day God will be FINALLY vindicated. As Christians who read our Bibles and wait for that day we must remember that justice in this sinful world is never completely right. We do our best. God has granted the governments of this world the power of the sword to do what is right. Well, how does that go? Sometimes good, sometimes bad, but always incomplete. This means we must wait for the FINAL vindication of God on that day.

3. A Day of Resurrection Life. As we've noted in this chapter alone, Jesus says, "**those who come to me I will raise them up on the last day**" four times (39, 40, 44, 54). This means John, through the words of Jesus, is emphasizing this truth. Also, REMEMBER our progression with those "who come to Jesus." God has given a people to the Son. And, those people he powerfully draws. And those he draws, he teaches. And those he teaches are those who remain (abide). And finally, on the last day, He Will Raise These People. This means we wait for a final resurrection to life on the last day.

So, what does this mean? In Rom. 6:23, Paul says, "**The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**." This verse teaches that those who come to Jesus will be victorious with the gift of eternal life. This Final DAY is all about LIFE . . . Final Victory over death. Until this FINAL DAY comes sin and death will continue. Sin and death will not exit this world . . . But, on that FINAL DAY those who come to Jesus will be Raised.

With that thought, some of you may be a bit confused. Why? Well, as you read your Bibles, you see many verses that say we have ALREADY been raised with Him. Consider with me a few verses. In Col. 2:12 Paul says, you have "**been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead**." Or, you may read Rom. 6:4-5 which says, "**We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his**." Or what about Eph. 2:4-6: "**But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus** . . ." Brothers and sisters, in many places we see that those who have come to Jesus have LIFE, the SAME life that raised Jesus from the dead.

Do you understand this truth? . . . If you are a Christian, NOW, you have life . . . life that has not been given to this world, to those who do not come to Jesus! And we are dependent upon this LIFE for EVERYTHING that happens in this world. As Jesus says, "***I am the vine. You are the branches. Apart from me you can do nothing***" (John 15). This is what John cp. 6 is all about . . . LIFE. So, today, "***if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation***" (2 Cor. 5:17). This is NOW! Because of the person and work of the Son we have life NOW. Judgment has fallen upon him, not us! As Christians we believe that God sent his Son to this sinful world. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He was birthed by his mother Mary. He grew up and lived a sinless life. And when the fulness of time had come, he laid down his life on a Roman cross. And for those whom the Father has given to the Son . . . those who come to Him by faith . . . God places their sins upon the Son. As John says, "**He takes away the sin of the world**" (John 1:29). AND God places his righteous wrath upon the Son. By his sacrifice, those who come to him find forgiveness, peace with God, eternal reconciliation, etc. And then then on the third day He rose again, conquering death. After 40 days he ascended to the Father and then He poured out his Spirit upon the church. And today, if you are a Christian, the same power that rose Jesus from the dead and gave him life is the same power in which you NOW live. So, this is how you can say, "*I have been raised with Him . . . NOW*."

So, why does Jesus say, "**I will raise them up on the last day**?" This is an important question to which we must give an answer! He is saying there will be a FINALITY to my work. He is saying, "*On that day, I will FULLY raise those who come to me in such a way that DEATH WILL BE NO MORE*." This means that we will not longer be housed in a body that is subject to death. The outcome of ETERNAL LIFE will be realized. This day will be the FULLNESS of resurrection life. On that day sin, death, and the devil will have NO place. Judgment will come to all. As the Psalmist says in 1:5-6: "**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish**." But, for those, both in the OT, who by faith looked

ahead in God's promise to send the Messiah and for US in the NT, who by faith look back upon the Son, his cross and his resurrection, ALL OF US TOGETHER will be raised. We will be given new bodies as our Lord Jesus was given a resurrection body. This is the DAY to which all of history is heading!

Let me give an illustration. I've always wanted to get Greg's special barbecue sauce in a sermon. So here it goes. This is some REALLY GOOD SAUCE! People from all over Landis and China Grove and Kannapolis come to eat this sauce. And, it is rumored that even folks as far away as Norway or Australia come to eat this sauce. Why? It is good, no great! But, what makes it great? We don't know. (Some of you may lay awake wondering). Well, Greg (and his family) knows. There is a secret ingredient that appeals to barbecue lovers. And if Greg does not put this secret ingredient into the sauce, it is jus ok. So, we might say, this secret ingredient is the pinnacle of the sauce. It is the "captstone." It is the "finishing touch" to his sauce.

Well, in the same kind of way (as much as this picture helps), the "raising up" of his people is the pinnacle, the peak, the capstone of the person and work of the Son and his kingdom. Matthew Henry says this: "*When he raises them up at the last day, he will put the last hand to his undertaking, will bring forth the topstone. If he undertakes this, surely he can do any thing, and will do every thing that is necessary in order to do it. Let our expectations be carried out towards a happiness reserved for the last day, when all the years of time shall be fully complete and ended*."

Brothers and sisters, in this life as Christians, eternal life has begun. By the spirit we have a downpayment. We have the firstfruits. We have EVERYTHING we need for life and godliness. But, on that FINAL DAY, a day of JUDGMENT, a day of resurrection life (and along with that a new heavens and a new earth), the FULLNESS of Christ will be realized. We will be raised with Him!

So, for a few minutes, let's consider some applications asking, "*How shall we live*? *How shall we respond to this pinnacle of truth*?"

Application: <u>Is there ANYTHING Jesus will not do to bring you to that day</u>? "I WILL raise them up! Is there anything that can thwart the purpose of Jesus to raise you on that last day? Today Jesus is the captain of your salvation, both now and that which is to come. There is no sea, no continent, no mountain, no depth in the earth, no constellation, no galaxy, no universe through which He will fail to lead you through. No sickness, no anxiety, no depression, no aging process, no family crisis, no political turmoil, NOTHING. Consider the words from Rom. 8:31-39: "**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine,**

or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." So, Press on brothers and sisters in this world!

Application: Consider the "already" but "not yet" reality of the work of God in this world as we head for that final DAY. If you are in Christ, you ARE raised NOW. Life (Eternal Life) is yours NOW. Everything you need for life and godliness is given to you NOW. As the writer of Hebrews says, "**But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering** . . ." (Heb. 12:22). But, he also says, "**For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come**."

Application: <u>We are COMPLETLY dependent upon the Lord Jesus</u> both in this life and the life to come. He is the guardian of our salvation every day (not just a single day – one day here, one day there), but every day until the last day comes. "He is the vine. We are the branches. Apart from Him we can do nothing." So, look to him. Seek him.

Application: <u>Do not grow weary</u>. If you are a Christian will be "raised" on the last day. As we live in this world, it can be easy to grow weary. But, on that day, we will be raised. The fruit of our faith will be fully realized! Concerning that day, Calvin says, God's people "*always have one foot in the grave, and, indeed, are not far from being continually swallowed up by death. Thus there remains no other support of our faith and patience but this, that we keep out of view the condition of the present life, and apply our minds and our senses to the last day, and pass through the obstructions of this world, until the fruit of our faith at length appear*."

In this world our salvation is "hidden" until that day. Think about it. We go through what the world goes through. Sin, death, and the devil (though defeated), still remains. God may or may not preserve you physically. But, He will raise you on the last day! This truth I have preached this morning must bring new meaning to 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**." The glorified is yet to come! On that day!

In closing let me remind us of our mission. In Matt. 28 Jesus says: "All authority has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples . . . teaching them to obey all my commands." We do this as we wait for that day! A day of finality, A day of judgment, A day of resurrection life.