

## 21. Jesus Taught that It Is the Father Who Draws People to Him

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children explain the promise that Jesus gave to all who would come to Him for spiritual life. Jesus promised that He would satisfy their spiritual hunger and quench their spiritual thirst by giving them spiritual life, which is eternal life. In our topic today, we are going to see that it is the Father who draws all those who come to Jesus for this eternal life.

Jesus went on to explain to the people why He came down from the Father to the earth. John 6:38-40 says, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” Here, we see that Jesus came from heaven to do the will of the Father.

We also see that Jesus gives us an example for our own lives. He said that He did not come to do His own will. Instead, He came to do the will of the Father. Jesus had told the disciples earlier in John 4:34, “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.’” Jesus did the will of the Father throughout the time that He was on earth and provides an example for us. His greatest example is in Matthew 26:39, we read, “He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.’” Jesus wanted the will of the Father, even though it meant that He would experience crucifixion and separation from the Father while He bore our sins.

Jesus also said that it was His Father’s will that He would lose nothing of all that the Father gave Him. As Jesus prayed to the Father the night before His crucifixion, He said, in John 17:12, “While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.” Jesus kept all of His disciples that were true followers since Judas was not a true follower. Jesus said, in a statement that also applies to each of us who are followers in John 10:27-28, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.” Christ will certainly keep each Christian today, because no one is able to pluck us out of His hand.

We also see the will of the Father for each of us. His will is that we believe in Christ so that we can have eternal life. In John 6:44, we see that the Father is the One who draws us when we read, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.” However, we also see our responsibility in John 1:12, which says, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” Here, we see it is our responsibility to receive Him. Jesus promises that if we believe Him and receive Him we will have everlasting life and He will raise us up at the last day.

Instead of receiving that message, John 6:41-44 says, “The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, ‘I am the bread which came down from heaven.’ And they said, ‘Is not this Jesus,

Growing Godly Family Series – Helping Our Children Present Jesus as the Son of God 21. “Jesus Taught that It Is the Father Who Draws People to Him”

Updated July 2023

Copyright © 2009, Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022, DLA, Serve and Equip  
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip <https://sveq.org>  
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, “I have come down from heaven”?” Jesus therefore answered and said to them, ‘Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.’” Here, we see that the Jews complained because Jesus said that He was the bread that came down from heaven. They knew that Jesus was saying He was the Son of God. The people said that they knew the family of Jesus. They knew Joseph and Mary. They had seen this couple raise Jesus from childhood. As a result, they said it was impossible for Jesus to say, “I have come down from heaven.” They did not know Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus knew that the people were murmuring and complaining among themselves. These people tried to deny that Jesus came down from heaven. They knew that would be admitting that He is the Son of God and they chose to reject Him instead. This gave Jesus the opportunity to explain the ministry of the Father in salvation. Jesus said that no one can come to Him unless the Father draws him. It is necessary for the Father to draw because the Gospel is hidden from those who are perishing. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 says, “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” The word translated “veiled” means *to hide or hinder the knowledge of a thing*.

Jesus also gave a great promise to all those who are drawn to Him. Jesus promised, “I will raise him up at the last day.” Throughout the book of John, we see that Jesus promises to give eternal life to those who believe in Him. At the moment we die, our souls and spirits are taken to be with the Lord. However, our bodies will also one day be raised back to life. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 says, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.” Here, we see that our dead bodies will be raised and rejoined with our souls and spirits. This resurrection body will be like the resurrection body of Jesus. 1 Corinthians 15:53-54 says, “For this corruptible *must* put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’” This body that corrupts and dies will be replaced with a body that does not corrupt and does not die.

Jesus went on to say in John 6:45-50, “It is written in the prophets, “And they shall all be taught by God.” Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.” Here, we see that the reason people come to Jesus is due to the fact that they have been taught by God. This statement comes from Isaiah 54:13. In that verse, the word translated “taught” means *to be disciplined or to learn*, in this case from God the Father. Only those who have learned from God can be drawn to Jesus.

Jesus said that there is only One person that has seen the Father. That One is the One who is from God. Jesus went on to make it clear that He is the One that has seen God. Jesus then said, “He

Growing Godly Family Series – Helping Our Children Present Jesus as the Son of God 21. “Jesus Taught that It Is the Father Who Draws People to Him”

Updated July 2023

Copyright © 2009, Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022, DLA, Serve and Equip  
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip <https://sveq.org>  
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life.” Earlier in His message, Jesus had promised in John 6:35, “And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’” Jesus is making it clear that each person must come to Him and believe in Him. All those who do will have their spiritual hunger satisfied. They will never experience spiritual hunger again because Jesus gives everlasting life.

In contrast, Jesus reminded the people what happened to those in the wilderness who ate the manna for 40 years. They all ate the physical manna and they all died physically. Jesus is very different from the manna that the people of Israel ate for forty years as they traveled through the wilderness. That manna had to be gathered every day, except on the Sabbath. Exodus 16:4-5 says, “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.’” Some of the people did not listen to Moses. Exodus 16:19-20 says, “And Moses said, ‘Let no one leave any of it till morning.’ Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.” Here, we see that the manna could not give them everlasting life because it would not even last one extra day.

Jesus said that He is the true bread that came down from heaven. Those who eat this bread will never experience spiritual death. Jesus made it very clear that the people must believe in Him in order to have eternal life. Jesus had taught this same thing when He was in Judea. John 5:24 says, “‘Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.’” We saw that the people of Judea rejected this message of Jesus about Himself. We are going to see that most of the people in Galilee also chose to reject this message. For those who did believe and receive Him, Jesus said that they would never experience spiritual death. Physical death is the separation of the body from the soul and spirit. Spiritual death is the separation of man from God. Adam and Eve experienced spiritual death the moment that they sinned.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children really understand the fact that when they believed and received Jesus they received the spiritual life that Adam and Eve lost when they sinned. We want them to understand that they no longer need to fear spiritual death once they have received Jesus because of the fact that Jesus has promised them spiritual life. Jesus gave that spiritual life to each of us at the moment that we experienced spiritual birth. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children to understand why spiritual life also gives true peace for eternity.