

EXPOSITION OF JOHN

Message #30

John 6:32-40

If you want to start a theological war with many people bring up the subject of “election” or “predestination.” For some reason people get angry and mad at the truth of these doctrines and dig their heels in and fight and buck and even deny what the Bible actually does teach. **The doctrine of election is a true doctrine of the Bible and if you want to deny this doctrine, you will,** as one writer said, have to tear out many pages from the New Testament. No man goes to heaven against his will. No man goes to hell against his will. But it is the Spirit of God who ultimately bends and controls the will of those who believe.

Now this doctrine is obviously an important doctrine and one of the great passages that teaches this doctrine is found right here in this context. Now the context is so important to the reason why Christ even brought this subject up. There are four contextual facts that I want to draw to your attention, which hopefully will give you a good understanding of the importance of this doctrine:

- (Fact #1) - Jesus Christ was surrounded by a multitude who made a choice to go find Him (6:24).
- (Fact #2) - Jesus Christ was surrounded by a multitude of people who really didn't want to believe in Him but did want to see more signs (6:30).
- (Fact #3) - Jesus Christ was surrounded by grumbling Jews who would never accept anything He said but were angered by everything He said (6:41, 52).
- (Fact #4) - Jesus Christ was surrounded by those who claimed to be His disciples who were not really and truly His disciples (6:60, 66).

So here is what we contextually have - we have Jesus Christ on earth doing spectacular miracles to prove that He is God and the only One who can give life. He is surrounded by a multitude of people who for the most part reject Him. One would naturally ask, “What is Christ actually accomplishing?” He comes to the nation Israel and most of the nation rejects Him, so what exactly is it that Christ is really accomplishing? **The answer to this question is He is accomplishing the Will of God.** Specifically in this context - He was accomplishing the will of God in that all who were elected to eternal life were being drawn to Jesus Christ. This doctrine would minister to the real disciples who were very rare. The main point from these verses is this:

JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GIVE ETERNAL LIFE AND EVEN THOUGH THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE REFUSE TO BELIEVE THIS, THOSE ELECTED BY GOD TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE WILL COME TO FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST AND WILL RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE.

Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life. That means, He is the only One you may receive to have life. **One may have physical life without coming to faith in Jesus Christ, but NO ONE will have eternal life without coming to faith in Jesus Christ.** The truth is most people reject this. **If you reject this - you are part of the majority, but more than that, you are part of the non-elect. If you believe this, you are part of the minority, who is part of the elect who God the Father has drawn to God the Son.**

You can be absolutely certain of this - those who are really supposed to come to faith in Jesus Christ really will and even though it appears as though not too many are really figuring out this reality, those who are supposed to be truly figuring it out. D. L. Moody used to say – “The whosoever wills are the elect and the whosoever won’ts are the non-elect.”

Now in these verses, there are seven very direct points that Jesus Christ wants to make to this multitude of people:

DIRECT POINT #1 – It was God the Father who gave physical bread out of heaven and it is God the Father who gives spiritual life out of heaven. 6:32-33

The Jews (6:31) were apparently challenging Christ this way - you produced one meal for a massive amount of people, but Moses produced manna from heaven for forty years, so let's see you do something else. (Some want to give man credit for something God does - i.e. answered prayer, salvation of a soul.)

Christ responds to that by saying - Moses didn't produce anything. The manna that physically fed Israel was produced by My Father in heaven, which Moses himself flat-out stated - Exodus 16:15. Christ takes this challenge as an opportunity to develop another point - namely, there is another kind of bread that not only can give physical but give eternal life and that bread was sent from God the Father. A bread that gives life must come down from heaven, for it is not something that may be physically produced on earth. You cannot be a good enough person to earn life.

DIRECT POINT #2 – The multitude initially wants Jesus Christ to give them this bread. 6:34

Living bread is something everybody wanted. It is exactly the same response the woman at the well gave when she said - give me a drink of living water. In both cases, they are thinking about something physical. In neither case, did these think they had a real spiritual need. This is something they wanted until they found out they had to face their own sin.

I read a book of a young man who, in the 1800s, went to St. Louis for the purpose of joining up with the fur traders and going to the Rocky Mountains. He met some of the fur traders in St. Louis who told him the way life really was and he turned around and went home. That is what happens here. Most of these people, when they heard they must face their own sin, turned around and went home.

DIRECT POINT #3 – Jesus identifies Himself as the bread of life. 6:35

This is a very important “I Am” statement – “I am the bread of the life.” Any who will believe in Him will be given life. This is the first in a series of “I am” statements which show up in John - 8:12; 10:7, 9, 11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1, 5. “I Am” is a unique name only used for God. It is a title of Divine Deity.

In this culture “bread” was considered to be a necessary means of sustaining physical life. In our culture, it is something we may or may not eat with a meal. However, according to Jesus having this bread that He is talking about, is the necessary means of having spiritual life.

Now I want you to notice the promise - the one who believes in Christ will not ever hunger or thirst again for life. What life is He talking about? Eternal life. If one comes to faith in Jesus Christ, He can stop wondering and searching for eternal life.

Jesus is saying that I am the only One who can sustain one's spiritual life. Many millions and millions of people have gone to Jesus Christ with deep needs. Some have gone to Christ overwhelmed by the darkness of their sin. Some have gone to Christ tired and weary of struggling to try and live up to some standard that they never were able to attain. Some have gone to Christ having tried about everything else. Some have gone to Christ depressed, discouraged and despondent. Yet all who have gone to Christ have found a full and complete satisfaction which never again hungered to be right with God. Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life.

DIRECT POINT #4 – Jesus informs this crowd that most of them do not believe in Him. 6:36

These people had physically seen Jesus Christ and could not deny His existence. **They did believe Jesus existed, but what they did not believe is that He was their only Savior.** Most people in the world do not believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to getting a life relationship with God the Father. Most people reject this truth. Most people all over the world believe that somehow their works play a part of them getting life and any who believe that really don't believe Jesus is the only way to getting it. These people had actually seen the miracles of Jesus Christ and the majority of these people had actually eaten from the miracle bread and fish that Christ supplied, yet they still would not believe in Him as their only means of salvation.

Miracles NEVER transform hard hearts.

The same is true today - most people reject Jesus Christ. Most know things about Christ especially at times like Christmas and Easter. But most do not really receive Him as their only Savior. The reason why most reject Him is because, as we will see in the next verse, they do not have the ability in and of themselves to see Jesus Christ as their only Savior of their sins. These people didn't even have enough sense on their own to see themselves as dirty, filthy sinners who needed a Savior.

DIRECT POINT #5 – All who are supposed to believe on Jesus Christ will believe on Jesus Christ. 6:37

This verse makes it clear that “all” people are in the Sovereign hands of God. People don't like this truth because people are proud and they like to think they are in their own hands. But I can tell you this with dogmatic certainty, if you are here without Jesus Christ, the only reason you still breathe and the only reason you have not gone into eternity to face the wrath you deserve for your sin is because God, in His Grace, has kept you alive.

What is revealed here is that God is completely sovereign in man's salvation. Jesus Christ makes no apologies for teaching this doctrine because this doctrine is absolutely true. God's plan concerning people will **NEVER** be defeated. His program concerning an individual will **never** fail. I want to be as clear as possible in causing you to see the two key points Christ is making:

(Point #1) - All that the Father gives to Christ shall come to Christ. 6:37a

I want to point out three grammatical matters here:

- 1) The “all that” is neuter singular. What this means is the “all” cannot be limited to just Israel - but to the totality of all people who will ever come to Christ. All means everybody. All individuals are in God’s sovereign hands.
- 2) Any person who comes to Christ has been given to Christ by the Father. It is the Father’s choice, **not** the human’s choice. To get to Christ you must be drawn by His Father (6:44).
- 3) The verb “shall come” is future, active, indicative. What this means is it is a fact, not a possibility or probability, but a fact that all who the Father gives to Christ will come to Christ. Not one of the “all” will be missing. God the Father will bring “all” to God the Son.

If any person makes coming to Christ contingent upon the will of man, then you cannot make the statement “all” shall come to Christ. What if some man doesn’t choose to come to Christ or what if some person doesn’t want to come to Christ. If the decision is left to man, you cannot say “all” shall come.

Now there is a big discussion in theology as to how God draws people to His Son in His sovereignty.

- 1) Some suggest God sovereignly directs individual circumstances to bring one to His Son. To be sure, God is sovereign over a person’s circumstances and can use them to track them down.
- 2) Some suggest God performs an individual miracle in giving spiritual life to one spiritually dead. I tend to favor this view based on John 11, in which Jesus miraculously gives life to one who was dead. Raising the dead by a miracle gives the glory to God - 11:4, 40.

In other words, God the Father literally tracks down every individual who is to be brought to the Son and performs a “born again” miracle which brings that individual to faith in His Son. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, God has performed this spiritual miracle in you.

I have a gift that my father gave to me and I treasure it. Those who believe on Jesus Christ have been given as a gift by God the Father to God the Son and He treasures you.

(Point #2) - The one who comes to Christ by the Father will never be cast out. 6:37b

Now notice the negative “certainly not” or “never.” In Greek this is the strongest negative one may use. In fact it is a double negative (οὐ μὴ). What this means is that it is not ever possible for one who comes to Christ to be cast out from life. Jesus treasures these people gifts given to Him and He will not ever cast out one brought to Him by the Father.

Now think about this - no matter what your past, or what your previous sin, no matter how bizarre your background - if you are one who comes to Christ, you will not ever be cast out. God will accept you as His child always if you come to faith in Jesus Christ, and any who do come have been drawn by the Father and will be eternally welcomed by the Son.

Note carefully we go from the “all” in the first part of the verse to the “one” in the last part of the verse. So it is one person at a time who begins to make up the all who come to Christ. **The neuter gender of the “one” means that you may be a man or woman, a boy or girl, a Jew or Gentile** - you can be any kind of sinner who comes to Christ if you will believe on Him. If you will believe on Him - you are doing so because of the work of the Father and he will never cast you out.

A child once asked, “Am I too young to believe in Christ?” The response was, “You are old enough to sin and you are old enough to die, so you are old enough to personally believe in Jesus Christ.”

It was this very verse that caused the Pharisee, John Bunyan to finally stop trying to be right with God and simply rely upon Jesus Christ to be right with God. Before he wrote Pilgrim’s Progress, Bunyan was a religious fanatic who became a kooky legalist. He struggled and struggled and finally came to terms with this verse - realizing that believing on Christ was the key to never being cast away by God.

DIRECT POINT #6 – Jesus Christ was on earth doing the will of the Father. 6:38

The will of the Father was that Jesus die on the cross and shed His blood so that He, the Father, might bring the elect to His Son. Jesus Christ did not die as a martyr or as a good example of one who dies for a cause, He died by the will of God the Father to provide salvation for sinners all over the world. Jesus Christ will not lose one person who believes in Him. **What this means is that our eternal security does not lie in us but in Him.**

Christ could have established Himself as King right then and there, but the program of God was much broader than that. There would be people from many nationalities and backgrounds who would be brought to the Son by the Father in view of His sacrifice. Christ was here on earth to carry out that program.

DIRECT POINT #7 – The will of God the Father is specifically made clear. 6:39-40

The will of the Father is this - whoever sees the Son for who He is and believes on Him will have eternal life. Jesus Christ will not lose even one of these people that the Father has decreed to see the Son as the only Savior. Those who are the elect will see truth and believe truth.

Now notice what one must do to have this life - “behold” or “look” to the Son by faith. The aorist tense indicates just one look. You may have eternal life by simply looking by faith to Jesus Christ. There is nothing here about living for Christ or loving Christ, but looking to Christ. If you look to Christ as your Savior you will be saved even if you do not do one good work after the moment you look (Romans 4:5). The promise to those who look to the Son is that they are part of the elect and they will be raised up one day to live forever in God’s eternity.

J. Vernon McGee was once asked by a person, “If I am not one of the elect can I still come to Christ?” McGee said, “You come to faith in Jesus Christ and you are one of the elect.”

Some people say, what about those poor people who have never heard? If they are part of the elect, they will hear. What about those children whose minds never fully develop? If they are part of the elect, they will be saved. What about that person lying in a hospital in a coma? If they are part of the elect they will not be lost. Not one will ever be lost who was supposed to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Just because it appeared that not too many were really responding, the truth is, the elect people were responding.

The will of God the Father is that you see and understand who Jesus Christ was and then believe on Him. That is the will of God. Will you be one who responds to the will of God today?