

After a busy summer of efforts to reach others with the Gospel, it is good to sit back and let these great verses from John 6 bathe over us as we seek to rest and recharge:

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

May these notes provide us with solid assurance that God's purpose in sending the Christ into our lives is to ensure that we are not lost – but raised up at the last day!

Mon/Tues: Read John 6:15-34

Give Us This Bread

Before we arrive at the wonderful promise that Christ will lose none of the ones given to Him by His Father (John 6:37) we must note the authority with which Christ deals with the unbelieving crowds who chase Him around the lake until they find Him at Capernaum. The day before, He sent them away, a mighty King able to handle the masses (Matthew 14:22). Undeterred, the next day they travel the miles across the Sea of Galilee to find the One who had fed them. When they do, they are elated and burst out with the question (John 6:25) "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Failing in their attempt to make Christ a king (John 6:15) they seek to make Him the 24/7 Provider of all their material needs.

But Jesus rebukes such a crass view of His feeding. The crowd did not heed the message of the sign (John 6:26) that this Jesus was the very same God who led His people through the desert with manna in the Old Testament, so they failed to appreciate Jesus' offer to give them the living bread of salvation. Though they do excitedly say, "From now on, give us this bread" (John 6:34). They cannot grasp their own spiritual condition nor the eternal life which Christ offers. They do not hunger and thirst for righteousness as a free gift of grace, and so they labor only for bread "which perishes" (John 6:27).

Meditate and Pray: How blind this multitude is to the spiritual realities of Christ's saving power. They were excited at being fed and followed Jesus in the hopes that He would again feed their bellies (John 6:26). They were obsessed with the material blessings which they could taste, touch, and see, but blind to the eternal life which Christ came to bring men. No wonder they cry out in wonder – "When did you get here?" (John 6:25) If they had faith, they would understand Christ's power to carry His disciples right through the storm. There is something wonderful in Christ's ability to carry His own "immediately" into the safe haven of their destination (John 6:21). But such emergency transport is only for God's own, with the eyes of faith to see and believe. Sing about the importance of such faith, using # 591 in our *Trinity Hymnal*:

*1 Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
saying, "Christian, follow me."*

*2 As, of old, apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.*

*3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."*

*4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."*

Wednesday: Read John 6:27 & Genesis 41:41-44

The Seal of Approval

When Joseph successfully interprets Pharaoh's dreams (Genesis 41:17-38) Pharaoh puts him in charge of the whole of Egypt, so that "without Joseph's word, no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt" (Genesis 41:44). To further confirm Joseph's position, Pharaoh gives him his signet ring (Gen. 41:42). Kings sealed their edicts and laws through such a ring; wherever that seal appeared, there was the king of Egypt's authority. With such ideas in mind, Jesus declares that men should put their faith in Him as Savior and Provider because, "God the Father has set upon Christ His seal." There is the same language.

Meditate and Pray: Whenever we have a problem that makes us cry out to God for help; whenever we need forgiving grace or enabling mercy, Christ answers our cries with the full authority of Heaven! On Him God the Father has placed His seal. Sing about the seal of the Spirit of God poured out on Christ, with # 311 from our *Trinity Hymnal*:

*1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.*

*2 He comes with comfort speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight*

*3 He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth;
before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.*

Thursday: Read John 6:26-36**Promises from The Bread of Life**

We enter what scholars call, “The Bread of Life Discourse,” taking us most of the way through John 6. This block of Christ’s teaching is coupled with His promise of eternal life for whoever believes in Him. Time and again He comes back to this theme, beginning in John 6:27 and then in John 6:39-6:40; 6:47-51. Christ shows that the sovereign God, who must “draw” sinners before they can come to Christ (John 6:44), works through faith, so that we must believe in Jesus as the only One who offers real salvation (John 14:6).

Why does Christ repeat the declaration so often that through Him alone comes the gift of eternal life and that through faith in Him salvation comes to sinners? It is because the crowd interrupts Him, grumbles against Him, and generally attempts to derail His discourse. Yet Christ, so clear, patient, and firm, eventually gets His point across: Eternal life is only found by faith in His sacrificial body and blood.

Meditate and Pray: Lord, in our day as well, please don’t give up repeating Gospel promises and invitations. Please reach lost souls who are hungering and thirsting for eternal life. Thank you, Jesus, that you know how to find those who are about to expire because of spiritual thirst and hunger. Please break your life-giving bread among us. Sing about the Bread of Life which comes alone from Christ, using *Trinity Hymnal* # 146:

*I Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
throughout the sacred page I seek thee, Lord,
my spirit pants for thee, O living Word.*

*2 Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my All in all.*

Fri/Sat: Read John 6:35-44**Coming to Christ**

There are many different ways in which to understand the gift of faith and how God *gives* it that we might then *exercise it* and *obtain* salvation through its use. Faith is from God’s unconditional, sovereign gift of grace - an empty hand by which God gifts to us eternal life. But in John 6, we find faith described in most frequently in terms of a *coming to Christ*.

Here are some verses where Christ stresses that saving faith is a “coming to Him:” (emphasis added)

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever **comes** to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst (John 6:35).

All that the Father gives me will **come** to me, and whoever **comes** to me I will never cast out (John 6:37).

No one can **come** to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day (John 6:44).

What is entailed in such a coming to Christ for eternal life? John Bunyan, the English Puritan, wrote an entire book-length exposition of John 6:37 Here is a sampling:

I conclude, that coming to Jesus Christ aright is an effect of being given by God the Father to Christ (John 6:37 – “All that the Father *giveth* me shall come to me.”) Am I coming to Jesus Christ? This coming of mine is not to be attributed to me or my goodness, but to the grace and gift of God to Christ. God gave first my person to Jesus and therefore has now given me a heart to come.

This word, *shall come*, engages Christ to communicate all manner of grace to those thus given Him to make them effectually come to Him. *They shall come*; that is, not “If they will,” but if grace, all grace, if power, wisdom, a new heart, and the Holy Spirit, and all joining together, can make them come ... this word, *shall come*, being absolute, has no dependence upon our own will or power, or goodness; but it engageth for us even God Himself, Christ Himself, the Spirit Himself.

Bunyan, *Come and Welcome to Jesus Christ*, pg 384 and 385

Meditate and Pray: Let our response of faith be one of flying eagerly to Christ for eternal life. He has promised; He has cleared the way; He gives the invitation. Let us rejoice in the sureness of this promise and the security of His salvation! Let us give God the glory for giving us to His Son; giving His Son to die and giving His Holy Spirit to live within us!

Sunday: Read John 6:37-44

A Big-Bellied Promise

As we link the sovereign power of God to give us to Christ (John 6:37), it stands to reason that verse 44 should follow naturally. Those whom the Father gives to the Son shall be drawn by that same Father to come to Christ. This is the absolute promise of John 6:44 for all those that come by faith to Christ: they have been chosen, given and enabled to come by faith to Jesus.

We conclude this week’s notes with one more quotation about the certainty of God’s promise, “All that the Father gives to the Son will come to Him.”

The promise under consideration from John 6:37 is an absolute promise; “All that the Father gives me, shall come to me.” This promise, therefore, is as it is said, a big-bellied promise, and has in itself all those things to bestow upon us that the conditional calls for at our hands. “They shall come!” Shall they come? Yes, they shall come! But how, if they lack those things, those graces, power, and heart, without which they cannot come? Why, “Shall come” answers all this, and all things else that may in this matter be objected ...

Bunyan, *Come and Welcome to Jesus Christ*

Meditate and Pray: “They Shall Come” is a sure word from God that we can build our faith upon. May God grant us to see His willingness in Christ to receive us and that we shall never be cast away from Christ. We are too valuable; we are a love-gift from the Father to the Son!