

The Amazing Grace of Salvation through Faith (John 6:37-71)

We may have a real problem getting through all these verse in a single Sunday School class. There are many complex issues at stake here so I don't want to rush it. We will do our best to get through, but if not we will extend John 6 for another week before moving to John 7.

In this section, Jesus is going to demonstrate that trusting in the true Jesus is a grace of God. It is not because you are smarter or better than other people. It is not because you are more "good." It is because the Father was gracious to you and the Spirit drew you by the preaching of the gospel. Of course you had to respond to the gospel, but the salvation you have is entirely of the Lord, not from any work you have done. It is not BECAUSE of your faith that you are saved. It is because of God's Grace that operates through your faith. "Saved BY grace – THROUGH faith"

I. Faith That Trusts The Son and the Father (37-46)

A. Jesus And The Father are United in Bringing Salvation (37-40)

1. Jesus' Salvation is According to the Father's Will (37-39)

a. Jesus will not cast out those who come to him (37)

i. Notice that Jesus says everyone the Father is "giving" to Jesus will come to Him

- This must have been a shocking statement to the Jewish listeners
- They believed in the Father – or so they thought – but here Jesus is saying that the Father is giving people to the Son for salvation.
- The implication is that they do not know the Father unless they know the Son

ii. Those who are coming to Jesus are never cast away

- Jesus saves perfectly and completely those who come to him
- There is never a time when Jesus loses one who comes to Him

b. Jesus has come to do the Father's will (38)

i. this is the reason why Jesus never casts away those who come to him "FOR I came to do the Father's will"

ii. Jesus is perfectly united with the Father's will

iii. This would also have been scandalous to the Jews

c. Jesus will raise those in the last day according to the Father's will (39)

i. the reason he loses none of those is because this is the Father's will

2. Jesus' Salvation is Through Faith (40)

a. The will of the Father is that those who believe are saved

i. those who look upon the son and belief have eternal life

- ii. those who look upon the son and believe will be raised on the last day by Jesus

B. The Crowd Does Not Believe Jesus' Words (41-42)

1. The Crowd Protests Jesus' Claim (41)
 - a. They deny he is the bread of heaven
 - b. They deny he has come from heaven
2. The Crowd Knew Jesus' earthly Origins (42)
 - a. They knew his father and mother
 - b. They were familiar with him and his family
 - c. Today we are like this. We are so familiar with Jesus but we do not surrender ourselves to him. We think because we know facts about Jesus that makes us right with God.

Jesus is about to explain why they do not believe. Mankind cannot believe under his own power, he must be drawn by the Spirit and convicted of his sin. Jesus is telling them that He and the Father have the same goal, and purpose – This would be like saying that the crowd really doesn't know God because they refuse to accept Jesus.

C. The Father And Son Work Together in Salvation (43-46)

1. Only those Drawn by the Father will Come (43-44a)
 - a. Jesus tells them there is no need to grumble
 - b. Jesus tells them no one can come to Him unless the Father draws him
 - i. **Don't get bogged down into thinking this means there is no hope for some people to be saved – that isn't what Jesus is saying.**
 - ii. **He is saying that man, in his own intelligence and righteousness will never come to Christ. God the Father must initiate conviction of his heart and wooing of the Spirit. Only those drawn by the Spirit come to Jesus.**

- 1 Co. 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned

*- Romans 8:7 - Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, **neither indeed can be***

This means we should always be in prayer for our lost loved ones. We can't reason anyone into the Kingdom of Heaven but we can pray that God would change their heart and draw them by the Spirit.

2. Only Those who Come to Jesus Will Be Raised (44b)
 - a. Notice that Jesus here claims to have the power to raise the dead at the final judgment
 - b. For a Jewish mind hearing this, he would have thought it blasphemous. Jesus is claiming God's authority.
3. All who Actually Hear from the Father come to Jesus (45)
 - a. Jesus quotes Isa. 54:13 and applies it to himself
 - b. He says if they are really hearing from the Father they will come to him
 - c. On the other hand, not coming to Jesus means they do not know the Father
4. Jesus Alone Has Seen the Father (46)
 - a. Jesus alone claims authority to have seen the Father
 - b. This means without Christ, those who think they have the Father are mistaken

So what kind of faith does Jesus expect from us? What does it look like when the grace of God is calling us to repentance and salvation?

II. Faith That Takes Jesus Into Oneself (47-58)

A. Faith in Jesus Brings Eternal Life (47-51)

1. Jesus is the Bread of Life (47-50)

- a. Notice Jesus first statement – “Whoever believes has eternal life” – this is important to understand –
- b. Jesus himself is greater than the Mana the Jews ate in the wilderness (48-50)
 - i. He is the true bread that brings life (48)
 - ii. their fathers ate bread from heaven in Exodus but they all died
 - that bread could only sustain them for a time
 - every day they had to gather more
 - they eventually died anyway
 - ii. Jesus is the bread from heaven that brings eternal life so man may not die

2. Jesus' Flesh is the Bread of Life (51)

- a. Jesus plainly states that he himself is the bread from heaven
- b. The one who eats this bread will live forever
- c. The bread that he will give is his own flesh

OK now things are getting weird. For the Jewish man hearing this, he would think Jesus wanted him to “eat” him? – Sounds strange. Is that what Jesus really meant? – He is about to explain.

B. Consuming Jesus Gives Life (52-53)

Remember verse 47 and keep it in mind – this is explicitly what Jesus means by “eating and drinking” his flesh and his blood – it is believing and taking Jesus inside ourselves.....by grace through faith

1. The Jews disputed what Jesus meant by eating his flesh
2. Jesus reaffirms and strengthens his claim
 - a. He says unless you eat the son of man’s flesh and drink his blood you have no life in you
 - b. That is a pretty strange statement if you don’t understand what Jesus means by consuming Him

C. Consuming Jesus is the ONLY way to Have Life (54-58)

1. Jesus Himself is the Only True Provision (54-55)
 - a. The one who eats his flesh and drinks his blood has eternal life and will be raised on the last day
 - i. Notice what Jesus has already said
 - Jesus will raise those the Father draws (44)
 - Jesus will raise those who come to him
 - Jesus will raise those who believe in him (v.40)
 - **all these things relate to faith. The Father gives the grace and Jesus accepts those who come by faith**
2. Jesus Dwells in those who Consume Him (56)
 - a. Whoever feeds on his flesh abides in him
 - b. whoever feeds on his flesh he abides in them
3. Jesus Gives the Father’s eternal life to those who consume him (57)
 - a. Just as the Father of life sent Jesus
 - b. So also Jesus has eternal life in him because of the Father
 - c. whoever feeds on Jesus will live because of Jesus’ life
4. Jesus is the only Bread that Brings Life (58)
 - a. He is the bread that came from heaven (he is saying that he is the true mana)
 - b. Those who eat this bread live forever unlike the Israelites who ate mana in the desert and still died

III. Faith That is By the Grace of God (59-71)

A. Jesus’ Words Are Hard to Believe and Accept (59-60)

1. Jesus taught these things in the synagogue (59)
2. Many of his “disciples” actually those following him recognized that this was a hard saying and no one could take it

B. Jesus Explains A Grace-given Faith (61-63)

1. Jesus claims to be the Messianic King (61-62)
 - a. Jesus knew that the followers were grumbling and he asked them if what he said had offended them.
 - b. He said if that offends you then you will really be offend when you find out I am the son of man
Son of man here is the prophesied divine king Daniel spoke about in Daniel 7:13-14 –

*I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.
14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed*

2. Jesus shows that the Spirit and the Word Give Life (63)

- a. Here Jesus is demonstrating why they do not believe.
- b. It is only the Spirit who gives life and the Spirit works through the Word of God.
 - i. A person hears the gospel and the Spirit convicts his heart to receive the gospel and he responds in faith. So the salvation is completely of God's grace.
 - 2. So the flesh, in and of itself, cannot bring man to God. Only the Spirit working through the Gospel can do that. Therefore we should be immensely grateful for our salvation instead of prideful that we were smart enough or good enough to come to Jesus.

3. Jesus Explains Man's Unbelief (64-66)

- a. Jesus exposes their unbelief (64-65)
 - 1. Jesus tells them they do not believe
 - 2. He knew from the beginning who didn't believe
 - 3. He knew who would betray him

NOTE: He tells them they don't believe and then says, "this is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."
- he says this because they want to come to him for what he can do for them. They have not been convicted by the spirit, nor have they been drawn by the Father. They simply want Jesus as a miracle worker.

b. Jesus' Words Turn away Many Followers (66)

C. Jesus Explains Grace and Unbelief to the Twelve (67-71)

- 1. The 12 disciples trust in their own ability (67-69)
 - a. Jesus asks if they want to leave too (67)
 - b. Peter says they have nowhere else to go – only he can give life
 - c. Peter gives the grounds of why they will never go away
 - 1. we have believed
 - 2. we have come to know that you are the holy one of God

I'll be honest. Peter's answer sounds like a really good one. It sounds like something I would say. If it was not for how Jesus answers Peter I would think Peter is on the

right track. However Jesus' answer to Peter reveals that they have not understood Jesus' teaching about the grace and the drawing of the Spirit. Jesus wants them to learn that they are disciples of Christ – not because of anything they did – but because of the grace of God.

2. Jesus Corrects Their Prideful Self Achievement (70-71)

- a. Jesus answers Peter's statement of faith in a strange way
70 "Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? 71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve"
- b. Jesus is telling them that even among their own ranks there is one who is a devil and will betray him.
- c. It is by the grace of God that the disciples follow Jesus not because of how good or smart they are.
- d. Even one of the men who still follow Jesus is one who has not been drawn by the Spirit and has not come to Christ. He has not "eaten and drank" of Christ. He has not taken Jesus into himself. So the 12 as a group can't say they are better than others. They must say, like everyone else, if it were not for the grace of God – I could be just like them.

Makes you thankful for God's grace and mercy doesn't it?