

How Does the Father Draw People to Christ? John 6

Introduction:

1. Can lost mankind seek God? In last week's lesson we answered that question from the Bible.
2. Mankind, in his lost and sinful condition, would never seek God on his own, but God made the first move. God gave His Word to lost mankind.
3. What lost mankind did not have in themselves and in their ability would never have, God's Word provides for them.
4. When God's Word is spoken and proclaimed in truth, the Holy Spirit uses it to bring conviction, light, and life. **Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23; Psalms 19:7-8, 119:130**
5. God's Word gives mankind the capacity to seek God.
6. Someone may ask, "But doesn't John 6 say that the Father must draw you before you can come to Christ?"
 - Calvinists say that this passage teaches unconditional election - "Before the foundation of the world, God chose some people to salvation, and only those chosen can come to Jesus."
7. But what does this passage really teach us?

What about John 6 and the Father's drawing?

1. Let's all read verse 44. What number verse is this? It is number 44. That means there are 43 verses before it and 27 verses after it. That means it is in the middle of a **context**.
2. Verse 45 is enlightening and will help explain verse 44. God gave Israel His Word and told them His will. The prophets taught them that their Messiah would come. How many are taught? It says, "All." How are they taught? By His Word!
 - So, if you believed God's Word, you believed that the Messiah was coming. If you didn't believe God's Word, then you didn't believe a Messiah was coming.
 - So, if people were standing in the crowd that day with Jesus and they didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah, why didn't they believe it? Because they didn't believe God's Word! It was all there in black and white.
3. Notice the words, "**heard**" and "**learned**" in verse 45. Where did they hear and learn? In the Word of God. Jesus said, "***It is written...***" If he hears and learns of the Father (in the written Word), Jesus said, "He comes unto me."
 - So this reveals how the Father draws people to Christ. It is through His written Word. cf. **John 5:37-47**
 - There is no election before the foundation of the world in John 6.
 - There is no arbitrary drawing of certain individuals.
 - There is no mysterious, hidden working in people's hearts. These kind of ideas must be **forced** upon the text.
 - You have the Father drawing Israel through the writings of the prophets, but in order to be one of those drawn, you have to read, learn, and believe it. This isn't speaking of some exclusive group that the Father mysteriously draws.

- It did not say, "They that the Father **causes** to hear and learn." There is a choice of the will to hear and learn of the Father. Those that hear and learn, the Father gives to the Son.
 - The issue is whether or not a person will **believe** the Father's Word. This meshes with the rest of the Bible. There is nothing in John 6 that indicates that the Father **makes** people believe. He draws through His Word and His Son. **John 1:9, 12:32**
 - Those who will hear and learn His Word (vs. 45), He gives to the Son (vs. 37) and they come to Him and believe His Word, too (vs. 45, 5:46-47).
4. Moses, the prophets, and John the Baptist all testified of the truth. The Father sent them as a witness to who Christ was.
- People who believed **them** - guess what they did when Jesus showed up? They believed **Him**. As they believed God's Word, God kept sending them more light.

How does the Father draw people?

1. He draws them through His Word. He gave them the Word and gave them people to proclaim and teach it to them.
2. Everybody (in Israel) who **believed** the Word was gathered through the ministry of John, Jesus, and the apostles into a believing remnant.
3. This remnant didn't just fall out of heaven, having been zapped by the Father. The remnant was those who were having a positive response to God's Word all along.
4. The Father drew those to Christ who had believed the testimony that He had given them up to that point. Those that believed the Word, God gave them further revelation.
 - God is never seen forcing someone to believe His Word or Jesus' words. It is always pictured and presented as a choice that each person makes. **John 3:17-18, 31-36**
5. **John 6:44** didn't float down from heaven in a vacuum. You must look at it in the context of the chapter and the entire book. God gave His written Word **that people might believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing they might have life through His name. **John 20:31**
6. God does not operate independently of His Word, and He relies on **people** to deliver His Word. **Romans 10:14-17** (Faith does not come from some mysterious working of God in your heart - it comes through the proclamation and hearing of His Word.)

But doesn't God blind people to His Word?

1. God is seen sending a **national** blindness to Israel, but never is God seen doing this arbitrarily.
2. God only does this after His Word and His light have been rejected and spurned.
3. But even when God sends blindness to Israel nationally, individuals within that nation are seen choosing to believe. **John 12:35-42**

In Conclusion:

1. While it is true that mankind does not naturally seek after God, there is more to the story than this.

2. God made the first move. God gave His Word to a lost and sinful world. The Word gives light in the midst of darkness. God never blames Himself as the reason why men don't come to the light. God places the responsibility on mankind and says that they don't come to the light because their deeds are evil (**John 3:19-21**) and they refuse to believe His words (**John 12:44-50**).
3. God has not only given us the light of His Word, but He has also given the world the light of His Son (**John 1:7-9**) and the light of the gospel (**2 Corinthians 4:4**).
4. Because of the light God has given, mankind **can**, in fact, seek God and choose to believe the truth of His Word. This is why Satan is seeking to blind people to the gospel.
5. If God has already blinded the non-elect from the truth of His Word, why would Satan be concerned with blinding people to the gospel?
6. Satan knows that if the gospel is proclaimed in truth, anybody could, in fact, choose to believe it and be delivered from his kingdom of darkness. This is the battle we are in. The church is to take the gospel to this world and Satan is fighting its advancement