

John 6:36–41

³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe.

³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

³⁹ 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.

⁴⁰ 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.”

⁴¹ The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.”

“God’s Redemptive Purpose” **John 6:36-40**

INTRO:

Over and over again in modern evangelical thinking we are told we need to get a hearing for the Gospel. Not only do we need to come up with a creative way to bring people to hear the Word of God, we must also find a way to persuade people to believe. We have to do all of this because if we do not do this, the redemptive purpose of God will be frustrated.

Our job as believers is to do our best to expose our world with the truth of the Gospel. Wherever the church touches the world the name of the game is evangelism. We need to be ready to take advantage of every opportunity which comes our way to share the Gospel with people. However, in the Biblical view of this process, we are not to create great flashy programs to bring people to the Gospel. We are to bring the Gospel to people.

Let me show you what I mean. ***“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ (Matthew 28:18-20).*** We are to go to all kinds of people. They did not go everywhere creating marvelous programs to get a hearing for the Word. They proclaimed the Word to everyone they met.

We must recognize that the results are not in our domain. All we can do is plant and water. God must give the increase. This is the point that Jesus is making in **John 6:36-40**. John included this in His Gospel because we need to understand how God’s redemptive purpose is accomplished.

I. Unbelief Does Not Frustrate God’s Redemptive Purpose (v. 36-37)

II. The Certainty of God’s Redemptive Purpose (v. 38-40)

I. Unbelief Does Not Frustrate God's Redemptive Purpose (v. 36-37)

"But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." John 6:36-37

A. Remember what has happened up to this point. Jesus confronted the folks who sought Him out because they ate the loaves. They demanded a ***"sign"*** before they would believe. To this crowd, "seeing was believing." Jesus answered their demand for a sign with further revelation. He taught them who He is. The concise truth was,

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

Jesus came to be the source of supply for spiritual life. The life that Jesus spoke of was not physical day to day existence, but eternal life, a life characterized by a dynamic relationship with the true and living God.

B. These people thought they were in the driver's seat. After all, was He not asking them to believe? So, they thought that they could dictate the terms under which they would believe in Him. If they did not believe, would not this frustrate the very purpose for which Jesus came into the world? This was their bargaining position to get Him to provide manna for them. Were they frustrating the purpose of God by their unbelief?

1. There are some who no doubt believe that it did. After all, if Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost, and certainly these people who had crossed the Sea of Galilee to find Him were lost, therefore, Jesus was failing at His job. He needed to try harder to convince them.

2. One reason John included this discussion between Jesus and these people in his book was just for those who might be thinking in this way.

C. Did their unbelief thwart the redemptive purpose of Jesus? No! Our Lord explained this in **verse 37**.

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

1. The first phrase of the verse is a strong statement of the success of the Lord's ministry. ***"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me."*** The seeking crowd did not believe. However, all this showed was that they were not among those the Father had given Jesus. ***"All"*** means that every last one of them whom the Father has given to the Lord Jesus will come to Him. God's purpose in sending His Son into the world will not, indeed, cannot, be thwarted because it rests upon God's Sovereignty.

2. Doesn't this then violate the "free-will" of humankind? No, it does not. To demonstrate this, our Lord proceeds to turn the coin over and to show us the other side.

"The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

He who comes to Jesus, He will not, in any way, under any circumstances, cast out. Those whom the Father gives to the Son are those who choose to come to Him. When

they come, they probably are not aware that they have been given to the Son by the Father. They come because they are choosing Jesus. In the Lord Jesus' prayer in **John 17** our Lord prayed

"Even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." John 17:2-3

II. The Certainty of God's Redemptive Purpose (v. 38-40)

"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." John 6:39-40

A. We might say here, "I see what you are saying, Lord, how all whom the Father gives to you will come to you and all of that, but how can I be sure that this purpose will be realized? How do I know that You won't fail?" Jesus never fails, in fact, He is unable to fail. There are two very good reasons that Jesus gives us here in this text to explain how this cannot fail.

B. First, as we have already seen, His success was established in the eternal plan and decree of the Father. Paul wrote in another place:

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified" (Romans 8:29-30).

Our salvation from beginning to end is already accomplished in the mind of God.

C. Second, it is entrenched in the resolve of the Son (v. 38-40).

"[Because] 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."

Verse 37 is true because Jesus came down from heaven not to do His own will, but to do the will of the Father who sent Him. This must be carried out because He came to do the will of His Father and not His own will. In **verse 39**, He told us what this will is.

1. What a tremendous statement of the purpose of the Son. **(1)** He came to seek and to save that which was lost. **(2)** But even more than this, He came to keep unto the end those whom He saved. He came to preserve those whom He saves.

2. One of the greatest passages in Scripture is **Romans 8:31-39**. Here Paul drew the practical application of the doctrine that he taught in **verses 28-30**. Look at the rhetorical questions he asks. **(1)** In **verse 31**, if God is for us who can be against us? If God is on our side, no one oppose us? **(2)** **Verse 32** asks us, if God gave up His Son for us, does it make sense that He will withhold any part of salvation from us? **(3)** The question in

verses 33-34 is: Who can bring an indictment against us? Jesus justified us. When the Judge says we are not guilty, we are not guilty! **(4)** Finally, Paul sums it all up in **verses 35-39** where He asks: Who can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus? No one or nothing ever can separate us from God. This is what Jesus said to the crowd here in **John 6**. Our security and salvation does not depend on our feeble hold on Him, but on His infallible, omnipotent hold on us! He saved us. He keeps us. And one day, He will raise us from the dead in order that we might be forever with Him!

What Do We Do with This?

1. First, if you do not know the Lord Jesus as Savior, the door is open to you today to believe and receive Him. All that is necessary is that you recognize you are a sinner and that He died for your sin and you receive Him as your Lord and Savior. I know this because I am one that the Father gave to Him.

2. Second, for those of us who know Him, this passage should cause us to rejoice. We learn that we have a privileged position. The Father gave us to the Son and the Son is actively keeping us in faith to the end. We know this because we have believed on the Lord Jesus to save us. This is particularly important as we see loved ones who knew the Lord Jesus as their Savior pass away. They are not gone. Their bodies will not remain in the grave forever. For one day, ***“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. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”*** (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17) We know this is true because Jesus, Himself, told us so!

Hymn #44 Children of the Heavenly Father