

John 6:41–47

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

<sup>42</sup> And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

<sup>43</sup> Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “Do not murmur among yourselves.

<sup>44</sup> No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

<sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

<sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.

<sup>47</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

## **“Our God Seeks Us”** **John 6:41-47**

INTRO:

In **Luke 15** our Lord Jesus told a parable in three parts. First, was the Shepherd who left the ninety and nine to search for the lost sheep. Second He described the woman who having lost a coin swept the house and sought until she found it. Finally, He told about a Father who lost His son, and found him again when the son returned to him. Our text today is much like this parable, because it details how God came looking for us.

Do you remember what happened when we left last time? Jesus has fed the 5,000. Those who ate the food followed Him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee and found Him in Capernaum. We listened in on the conversation between the Lord Jesus and these people who were interested in the free lunch. **(1)** He has told them the food that they really needed to seek was the Lord Jesus Himself. **(2)** He said if they had Him, He would satisfy the deepest longings of their souls. **(3)** Still, they cannot bring themselves to believe that. So, our Lord speaks to them again and tells them why and how God Himself sought them.

*I. Why God Has to Seek Us (v. 41-42)*

*II. How God Seeks Us (v. 43-47)*

*I. Why God Has to Seek Us (v. 41-42)*

*“The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” And they said, ‘Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, I have come down from heaven?’”*  
**John 6:41-42**

A. You may remember the last time we were here we listened as the Lord Jesus made the first of the seven "I AM" statements in the Gospel of John. He said in **verses 33 and 35**, ***"The bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."***

Then He clarified this statement further when He said, ***"I AM the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."***

He then explained how their unbelief does not frustrate His purpose.

1. The Jews could not comprehend what He said. They thought they knew all there was to know about Him. That is why they began to murmur to one another in **verses 41 and 42**.

***"The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, 'I am the bread which came down from heaven.' And they said, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, I have come down from heaven?'"***

The truth is they did not know very much about the Lord at all. **(1)** They did not know about the virgin birth. **(2)** They did not realize that He was the ***"Word made flesh."*** **(3)** They did not understand He was the Savior of the world. They made up their minds and did not want to be confused with the facts.

2. People today, like these Jews, have trouble trusting in Jesus. They think they know who Jesus is and how He would act. They say things like, "God is too loving to ever send a person to hell." "Jesus would accept everyone and just smile at their sin." For example, during the invasion of Iraq, I saw a bumper sticker that said, "Who would Jesus bomb?" This is not a matter of "What they don't know can't hurt them." This is a case of "What they don't know can condemn them to a Christless eternity."

B. This demonstrates to us "why God has to seek us."

1. He has to seek us, first, because if God does not seek us, we will not seek Him. In our unconverted state, we do not want to be found. We forget this because we live in an age in which we think people seek God. We forget that the only ones that seek God are those whom God is seeking. We also forget that one of the major ways in which God seeks the lost is through our seeking them. We must not forget what Paul wrote in **Romans 3:10-11**:

***"As it is written: 'There is no one righteous, no, not one. There is no one who understands. There is no one who seeks after God. They have all turned aside. They have together become unprofitable. There is no one who does good, no, not one.'"***

The issue isn't that God is reluctant to save them. Rather, they refuse to believe.

2. Second, God has to seek us, because if God does not teach us our need, we will not be aware of it. These Jews had it all figured out. They thought they understood God and His plan. They thought they knew all there was to know about who Jesus was. The fact was they didn't know anything. I am reminded of another conversation a little later in this book. In **John 9** we read,

***"And Jesus said, 'For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.' Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, 'Are we blind also?'" Jesus said to***

*them, 'If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore, your sin remains.'"*

## **II. How God Seeks Us (v. 43-47)**

A. While these people murmured behind the Lord's back, they did not realize He knew what was in their hearts. Then the Lord Jesus answered their murmuring in **verses 43-47**.

*"Jesus therefore answered and said to them, 'Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.'"*

B. In effect, the Lord declared, the only way they can understand and be saved was if God sought them. This is how God the Father seeks us. He seeks us, first, by drawing us to the Son.

*"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day."*

1. How does God the Father draw us to the Son? He does it first by showing us our great need of salvation. He can do that many ways. I am reminded of all the ways that Jesus healed blind men in the Bible. Sometimes He just spoke to them. Other times He made clay and put it in the blind man's eyes. Yet, other times He just touched their eyes.

2. Similarly, God draws us in different ways. **(1)** Sometimes it is through recognizing our great guilt. Spurgeon had a great sense of condemnation before the Lord finally saved him. **(2)** Other times He sends someone to say to us:

*"Taste and see that the Lord is good!"*

Do you remember this text from **John 1**?

*"Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' And Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'"*

**(3)** He always draws us through His Word, through the work of the Holy Spirit, and through people who He brought into our lives to direct us to Jesus. Yet, we will not come without His drawing us.

C. He also seeks us by teaching us. **Verse 45** reads,

*"It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father."*

God seeks us by teaching us through His Holy Spirit of our need of Christ.

1. In **Ephesians 2** we are told how we were dead in trespasses and sins. We were alive physically, but dead spiritually. Then in **verses 4-7** we read,

*"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly*

*places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”*

We were dead and He made us alive. He resurrected us and He taught us our great need of Him and we rushed into the arms of Jesus.

2. Until God teaches us, we cannot understand, we cannot respond to God. The Apostle Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 2:14**

*“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

D. Although He draws us, and teaches us, contrary to what you may have heard, He never drags us kicking and screaming into the kingdom of God. We come because we want to come. This is why the Lord said to these Jews in **verse 47**,

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.”*

Do you want to be saved today? All you have to do is believe. That is all that has ever been required by God.

**Now why does John include this conversation in his Gospel?**

Why is it so important to the Lord Jesus to say these things to these people who do not understand? The main reason is so that we who have been saved, we who have believed, may understand the wonder of the grace of God.

If you have never put your faith in Jesus Christ, come to Him by faith today. If you have put your faith in Christ, ask the Lord to help you understand the great blessing we have because of God's grace.

**Hymn #522 He Lifted Me**