

YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME

(Sermon Summary)

Reading: John 15:1-17.

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These words were spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ when in the Upper Room. He was revealing things that were hard to accept. We feel we have control over our lives. Is it unloving that God only chooses some for salvation? These words come from Christ who was full of compassion and love and is the express image of God. He speaks the commandments of God who had sent Him (John 12:44). 'I and the Father are one'. He is both God and man, perfect and sinless, the eternal Creator of all things.

When Adam and Eve fell, God, in judgment remembered mercy. He clothed them and gave them the promise of a Seed who would bruise Satan's head. Christ would take the just punishment. His resurrection promises life to all who believe. God's election came at a price.

We are saved from a lost eternity. We should be concerned that the wrath of God abides on those who do not know Christ. If you are feeling the weight of your sin, you can cast your sins on Christ, and He will forgive you. If the Lord is calling you, you must and will come. He calls you because He has set His love on you. Jesus' disciples had been called personally.

How do we explain the calling of Judas? Christ called him to be the son of perdition. He uses whom He chooses. He knew Judas was traitor (John 13:18). Some people were given over to a reprobate mind. Christ calls the vilest offender (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). His calling is always accomplished. We are His creation. People create their own false gods. Naturally we do not choose Christ. We have sin, the world the flesh and the devil. But even when we were in darkness, he loved us. We cannot naturally love God. All of us have common grace. In judgment He remembers mercy. But we see His great mercy revealed in His love for His people. By grace we are saved.

'Ye have not chosen me' – the 'ye' speaks of the multitude. Of the many, each has been called personally. In Philippi, Paul preached by the river. Only Lydia responded because the Lord opened her heart. Her response was the fruit of her salvation – faith. She is in heaven as you cannot lose your salvation.

We see people backslide and fall away. Has God really chosen them? The Lord told Paul in Corinth that He had much people in the city (Acts 18: 9-10). Paul was to be the means of grace to them.

A multitude followed Christ. Some just wanted healing or feeding. They did not come to Him for salvation. But those He called came to Him. The rich young ruler (Mark 10) was known to the Lord. He knew his heart and he turned away. In families the Lord chose Jacob, not Esau. The reason lies not in us but in Him.

If God does all the choosing, does it mean that there is nothing that I can do? There must be evidence of salvation, as seen by repentance and faith. This is the fruit of salvation. He has set His love upon you before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 2). If you feel anything of your sin this day, then come to Him, repent, and believe in Him. He will receive you because He has chosen you. If you are tired and weary, and your fruit is no longer firm and appealing, look to the vine, cleave ever closer to it. If we are in difficulties, the vine is ever growing. It is kept by the Husbandman, and you are a precious fruit.