

Morning Sermon 7/24/2022 –
“Receiving Jesus and Becoming God’s Children” John 1:12-13

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12–13 (NKJV)

Last week I messed up. Not your outline but my sermon notes, at least one page was missing ...

*I. (Review of last week’s message and application)
Most did not receive Jesus; most will not receive
Him – **Matthew 7:13-14***

- 1. Jesus is still the True Light, shining into a dark world - :9*
- 2. Most people in the world don’t know Him - :10 – They’d follow Al Gore more than Jesus*
- 3. His own people don’t receive Him, rather they reject Him - :11 – according to Jesus many say “Lord, Lord” and do many other things, but they are not truly His, they never knew Him -*

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)

II. Today, let us about those who do receive Jesus -

¹² **But as many as received Him,... John 1:12 A (NKJV)**

1. *Receiving Jesus, is shown here in CONTRAST to not receiving Him –*

A. *He is presented as a LIGHT, as the LIGHT, those who “receive” Him see Him as the Light of the World ...*

*Like ordinary light, Jesus helps us SEE things better, He enables us to see things as they really are, this is not always a comfortable thing because the presence of Jesus, highlights our sin – **John 8:44** ...*

Eyes like mine don’t always see well in dark places, we don’t see dust and we don’t see sin, but ...

B. *If you look at **John 8:30**, these were people who believed in Jesus (for a time) as the Son of God the Father – **John 8:29** ... Yet when He spoke about their NEED, being “set free” from sin, **John 8: 31**, they started to argue with Him ... Receiving Jesus means trusting His Light, even when it exposes your darkness!*

2. *Receiving Jesus, in contrast to not receiving Him, involves knowing Jesus, **John 17:3** ...*

³ **And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3 (NKJV)**

Moody Magazine – Do you believe in Jesus?

Mushroom Cult – Yes, we believe in Jesus!

Moody Magazine – What do you believe about Jesus?

Mushroom Cult – Jesus was a Mushroom!

There are people today that say: Jesus was a feminist, Jesus was a homosexual, Jesus was “just a man” ... All of these are wrong! If you have “received” the wrong Jesus, you will not have eternal life ...

3. *Receiving Jesus means taking Him, as Savior, as Lord, as King, as Spiritual Husband of the Church, as the Word made flesh, God-incarnate ...*

Serious commitment -

Do you take Jesus as your wedded husband - To love, honor and obey ...

A. **λαμβάνω** (*lambanō*), VB. *receive; take*. Remember last week *katalambano*, meant to not receive, to reject, to despise ...

B. *In regard to Jesus, taking Him would ultimately mean loving Him –*

²² If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! 1 Corinthians 16:22 (NKJV)

III. There is a great privilege connected to receiving, rather than rejecting Jesus, becoming the children of God –

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God,... John 1:12 B (NKJV)

1. *This is the ultimate destiny of everyone who has truly “received” Jesus –*

A. *God’s providence, both His bouncing on knee, and under His foot, providence work towards our becoming God’s children, like Jesus Christ –*

²⁸ 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. ²⁹ 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. Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)

God is our Father, Jesus our older brother ...

B. This is beyond words WONDERFUL, and is the purpose both of our salvation and sanctification, being SAVED means being more and more like Jesus –

3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 1 John 3:1–3 (NKJV)

- *A result of God's LOVE – ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19 (NKJV)*

- *A call to purity – We cannot be “like Him” and remain in our sin, nothing sinful will enter Heaven –*

¹⁴ Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. Revelation 22:14–15 (NKJV)

IV. How does this receiving, how does this becoming God's child / children happen?

1. *Some say “free will” they say the word “receiving” equals “free will” or believing is caused by “free will” ...*

Let us examine this Biblically:

A. *Is the phrase “free will” used in the Bible? Yes, in regard to free will offerings, but never in relation to salvation!*

B. *What does the phrase “free will” mean?*

- *First, note it is a phrase, two words “free” and “will”*

- *This is important to note, because not understanding confuses things, people often say that if a person denies “free will” they make human beings into ROBOTS! Not true, Scripture clearly speaks about a human will, having a will means you are not a robot, having a will means you make your own decisions. Having a will means you are responsible for those decisions.*

- So, what does “free will” imply or mean? That the will is FREE from something, or from EVERYTHING ... usually if you ask a believer in “free will” what they count the will free from, they refuse to or CANNOT ANSWER!

C. There are two-things I would argue that the will is NOT free from –

(1) The will is not free from God’s sovereign power to control or punish –

¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2:17 (NKJV)

A. The day Adam ate the forbidden fruit he died spiritually

B. Sometime in his 930th year, Adam died physically ...

C. Adam’s will was not “free” from God’s power to punish or he could have refused to die! If I had such a “free” will I might not only refuse to die, but I would refuse to grow old, get sick, be fat, or short, if my will were free from my God-given DNA maybe I decide to be 8’8” and dominate in the NBA!

(2) Adam’s will was free from sin, so was Eve’s for a time, but the rest of us are born in sin –

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Psalm 51:5 (NKJV)

A. The fact that our wills are NOT free from sin is communicated by Jesus Christ in John 8, this is something He argues about –

²⁹ And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.” ³⁰ As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free’?” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. ³⁷ “I know that you are

Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. ³⁸ I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father." ³⁹ They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. ⁴⁰ But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. ⁴¹ You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. ⁴⁴ You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. John 8:29–45 (NKJV)

The truths Jesus tells here:

- *These people are a sort of believers – John 8:30-31*
- *The people He was speaking to were slaves to sin – John 8:34 their wills were not free from sin*
- *If we commit sin, just like them, we are slaves to sin – John 8:34*
- *If Christ is correct, you need Him to set you free – John 8:36*
- *If Christ sets you free you are "free indeed" – really victorious over sin, in Heaven we will be; here our wills are often WEAK, even believers –*

⁴⁰ Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak." Matthew 26:40–41 (NKJV)

Here Jesus credits His disciples, His chosen ones, with willing spirits, yet their wills were not free from sinful, sleepy flesh! Neither are ours; this is why we are always dependent upon Jesus – John 15:5

V. *Neither our birth, nor our wills do not make us children of God –*

¹³ **who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12–13 (NKJV)**

1. **not of blood** - *Just being Jewish did not make a person a child of God, nor does being born in a Christian home ...*
2. **nor of the will of the flesh** – *the will of the flesh is SINFUL, it is in rebellion, we are not saved by our sinful wills ... they cry crucify!*
3. **nor of the will of man** – *a lot like the will of the flesh, but this is us at our best, Abraham, David, Paul, a Pastor or Mother praying for you ...*
4. **but of God. John 1:13 - Isaiah 45:22** *Look unto Me and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God and there is no other.*

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