

Drawn to Christ

John 6:41-51

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- **What attracts you to other people?**
 - Good looks
 - Personality
 - Success and wealth
 - Proverbs 14:8-- *"The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor, but the rich has many friends."*
 - Proverbs 19:4 -- *"Wealth makes many friends, but the poor is separated from his friend."*
 - Proverbs 19:6-- *"Many entreat the favor of the nobility, and every man is a friend to one who gives gifts."*
 - Intellectually challenged
 - "Chemistry" or "Magnetism"
- **Everywhere Jesus went, He attracted a crowd!**

Drawn to Christ

A. General Factors that contributed to His popularity

1. **Not Jesus' good looks**
 - Isaiah 53:2 -- *"He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him."*
2. **Jesus' personality and the manner in which He interacted with others.**
3. **Jesus' display of power and success.**
4. **Great attraction: Jesus' teaching**
 - Matthew 7:28-29-- *"were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."*
 - John 7:46-- *"No man ever spoke like this man!"*
 - a. **Bold assertions Jesus made at Capernaum**
 - John 6:26-27 -- *"Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."*
 - John 6:35 -- *"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger, and He who believes in Me shall never thirst."*
 - John 6:33 -- *"I am the bread of God who has come down from heaven to give life to the world!"*
 - John 6:38 -- *"I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."*
 - John 6:40-- *"everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise Him up at the last day."*
 - b. **Peoples' Response: Hardened Unbelief**
 - John 6:41-42 -- *"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?'"*

- 1) **Stumbled over Jesus' claim to be from heaven.**
- 2) **Those who continually reject the truth, God hardens.**
 - John 12:37-40 -- *"But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: 'Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?' Therefore, they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: 'He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.'"*
 - Matthew 13:11-15 -- *"Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance, but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore, I speak to them in parables, because seeing, they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them, the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled which says, 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive. For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing and their eyes are closed, lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn so that I should heal them.'"*
- 3) **Final Response: Deserted Jesus**
 - John 6:66 -- *"From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with him no more."*

B. Ultimate Factor: Drawn by the Father

- John 6:43-45-- *"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.'"*
1. **Man, of his own free will, is unable to come to Christ.**
 - Ephesians 2:1-- *"dead in our trespasses and sins"*
 - Romans 8:7 -- *"carnal mind is enmity against God, not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."*
 - 2 Corinthians 4:3-- *"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, shine on them."*
 - 1 Corinthians 2:14 -- *"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."*
 - Romans 3:11-12 -- *"There is none who understands; there is none who seek after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable. There is none who does good, no, not one."*
 2. **We are drawn to Christ by being "taught by the Father"**
 - John 6:45 -- *"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."*
 - a. **Since the day of Pentecost, the "teaching" ministry of God has been delegated to the Holy Spirit.**
 - 1) **The Spirit brings us under conviction of sin**
 - John 16:8 -- *"When He comes—that is, the Spirit of God—He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment; of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the rule of this world is judged."*
 - 2) **The Spirit opens our eyes and enables us to understand the truth of the gospel.**
 - 2 Corinthians 4:6-- *"For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*
 - Romans 10:17 -- *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."*

- 2 Timothy 2:25-26 -- *“God grants us repentance so that we may know the truth, and that we may come to our senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will”*

3) **Through the truth of God’s Word, God draws people to embrace His Son.**

4) **Everyone who hears and learns from the Father comes to Christ.**

b. **Before Pentecost, Jesus’ Christ was God’s representative**

- John 6:46 -- *“Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.”*
- John 1:18 -- *“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”*

3. **We are drawn to Christ by believing Christ’s message**

- John 6:47-51 -- *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”*

a. **“I am the Bread of Life”—the source of eternal life!**

b. **“Anyone who eats of this bread will live forever”**

1) **Meaning of “eating”: to “believe”**

- John 6:47-- *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.”*

2) **The parallels between “eating” and “spiritual truth”**

a) **Food is useless unless eaten.**

- Hebrews 4:2-- *“For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.”*

b) **Eating is prompted by hunger**

- Luke 5:31-- *“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*

c) **Food becomes part of us through digestion**

d) **Eating involves trust.**

e) **Eating is personal**

- Psalm 49:7-- *“None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him.”*

c. **“The bread that I give is My flesh”**

- 2 Corinthians 5:21-- *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*
- Galatians 3:13 -- *“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed in everyone who hangs on a tree.’”*
- 1 Peter 2:24 -- *“Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sin, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes we were healed.”*
- 1 Peter 3:18 -- *“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the Spirit.”*
- Hebrews 9:22 -- *“without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness”*
- Isaiah 45:22 -- *“Look to Me and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is none other!”*
- John 3:14-15 -- *“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*
- John 12:32 -- *“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.”*