

John 6:41-51 – God’s Sovereignty, Part 3

Introduction

1. The Old Testament prophesied a day would come when the Lord would teach His people, in their hearts, the truths of God – those truths would draw His sheep to Jesus (**Isaiah 54:13, Jeremiah 31:33**)

Central Gist: The response of the natural man to Jesus is grumbling rejection. Only the gracious drawing of a sinner to Jesus by the Father will cause that one to come to Christ for salvation. This drawing is God’s teaching them through the presence of the Holy Spirit. And all who are taught come to Christ and will be raised up on the last day.

Spiteful Grumbling (John 6:41-42)

1. Jesus has just described Himself as the bread of life that has come down from heaven to be the source of eternal life
2. The crowd doesn’t seek Jesus because they love Jesus, but are material Driven seekers; they want the stuff of God, the blessing as the goal
 - a. Jesus exposes their appetites and misplaced desires (**John 6:26**)
 - b. Jesus explains to them the right way to come to Him (**John 5:35-36**)
3. Jesus boldly claims salvation is solely of the Lord; there is a reason you are not believing and coming to Me... they are blind, deaf, hostile mind
 - a. Jesus is the only way to the Father, and the only way to Jesus is for the Father to draw you; Jesus insults the ego of the natural man
 - b. Salvation is of God alone, apart from wisdom and works
4. The natural man responds w/ grumbling (The Jews = Jewish leadership)
 - a. The Father is not drawing the Jewish Leadership; they are not affected to repent and believe; they are full of pride
 - b. The Jewish leadership sees themselves as the keeper of the keys & self-appointed authority over Israel
 - c. The natural man believes he is in the position to question God; He is prejudiced against God ready to pronounce judgment on the Creator, not realizing the weighty position he is in
5. Natural man thinks he knows more & knows better; they’re deceived
 - a. They don’t think they need grace and mercy
 - b. Give me a Jesus who is a prophet, teacher, social worker, healer, bread giver – Just not a Divine Jesus who sacrifices Himself for me
 - c. Jesus agitates the Natural Man; The darkness is disturbed by the light; see Jesus is from God, but not on Jesus’ terms (**Ex: John 3:2**)
6. The point of aggravation comes at the point of what Jesus says about Himself, but the eyes, mind, and ears tell us something different; Jesus is of the earth, not sent from Heaven

Sovereign Governance (John 6:43-46)

1. Jesus responds to their grumbling in two ways
 - a. Jesus corrects the grumbling Jewish leadership
 - i. He gives no justification or explanation of the truth revealed
 - ii. The Truth is Sufficient

- a. Jesus describes God’s Sovereign Grace to unbelievers – there is a reason why you will not believe
 - i. You won’t come unless the Father draws you
 - ii. Unless the Father effectually calls you out of darkness and into light, you will not see nor enter into the Kingdom of God
 - iii. The Father must change the nature of the sinner for the sinner to come to Jesus Christ; a supernatural work on the mind & heart
2. What is the drawing by the Father? How does the Father draw sinners?
 - a. The word, “drawn” in Greek is ἐλκύω (helk-o) – means a thing is brought to a place; resistance is implied
 - i. **John 18:10** – Peter *draws* a sword out of its sheath
 - ii. **John 21:11** – Peter *hauls* 153 fish into a boat
 - iii. **Acts 16:19** – Paul and Silas are *dragged* into the marketplace
 - iv. **Acts 21:30** – Paul is *dragged* out of the temple
 - v. **James 2:6** – The rich *drag* the poor into court
 - b. This does not mean that God *drags* the sinner kicking & screaming to Christ Jesus, rather it means God overcomes the resistance by the power of the Holy Spirit (HS) inwardly working on the heart
 - i. The HS brings life to the spiritually dead heart!
 - ii. The HS creates a desire for repentance, forgiveness, a willingness to repent, and true belief from the heart for Jesus
 - c. The drawing is the Spirit of God teaching Truth to the Soul
 - i. Jesus quotes the Prophet Isaiah to show the children of God are taught by God Himself (**Isaiah 54:13**), **Ex: Lydia (Acts 16:13-14)**
 - ii. This is a universal experience (**Ex: Peter – Matthew 16:16-18**)
 - iii. Regeneration precedes Faith; the sinner is brought forth by the Father’s own will (**James 1:18**)

Satisfactory Grain (John 6:47-51)

1. Jesus is the Only hope for the crowd and the Jewish leadership
2. Satisfaction comes from the food that endures to eternal life (Himself)
3. Jesus claims Deity – He is God in the flesh; the bread from heaven
4. Jesus Compares and Contrasts Himself w/ the manna in the wilderness
 - a. Comparison
 - i. Both came from heaven (**Ps 78:24, Num 11:9, Jn 5:18, 8:56-59**)
 - ii. Both were given by the Father (**John 6:32**)
 - iii. Both were incomprehensible (**Jn 1:5**); manna = “What is it?”
 - iv. Both produce life
 - v. Both bring satisfaction
 - b. Contrast
 - a. Manna is temporary life, Jesus is eternal life
 - b. Manna is not living, Jesus is a person; we receive a person

A Summons & A Promise (John 6:51)

1. Jesus gives His *flesh* for His people: summons to eat His flesh (believe)
 - a. The work of God is to believe; good works are not required, for Jesus did all the work for us; He merited what we need on the cross
2. A Promise: Eternal Life for all who believe: Eat the food that endures to eternal life
 - b. His death is your life if you repent of sin and believe on Him