

John 6:35-59

The Gospel of God's Grace

Introduction

In his book titled *Theology for non-theologians*... author and pastor James Cantelon recounts the following, moving, and insightful story of his conversion experience – he writes:

“First impressions are lasting impressions.” So goes the old saying, and I suppose that in most cases it is true. My first impression of God is with me to this day. It happened at a musty old church camp in Central Saskatchewan (sas-catch-u-when), Canada. I was five years old. Back in those days we were into tabernacles. Not only were most of our churches called tabernacles, but our camp meeting buildings were also given this Old Testament name for tent. On one especially hot day my parents were in the adult tabernacle and I, with my fellow junior campers, was in the children’s tabernacle. The teacher was taking us through Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress. As she taught, something sparked within me. After the lesson the children exploded into the sunshine to play. I lingered. Miss Brown seemed to know why. “Can I help you, Jimmy?” she asked gently. I nodded dumbly, biting my suddenly trembling lower lip, tears welling in my eyes. “Let’s go into the back room and pray,” she said. now I can’t explain what happened....but I will say this: at age five I suddenly felt as though I were the worst sinner who had ever lived. My sense of sin nearly crushed my little heart. The prayer, however, had not ended. It began with remorse, it grew into joy. I felt this newly discovered burden lift from my fragile soul. The presence of God overwhelmed me. [and] without my looking for Him, or asking for Him—indeed, without any knowledge of my need for Him—God came looking for me, asking for me...a five-year-old kid...

First impressions are **indeed** lasting impressions – and did you notice how Mr. Cantelon describes his first impression of God:

God came **looking** for me – God came **searching** for me!

If I were to ask you **here today** dear friends:

What is your understanding of salvation – what is your understanding of the Gospel – what is your understanding of your conversion experience – what do you think you would **ultimately** say...?

How would you begin to describe **your experience** when it comes to your salvation and the accent of your story?

Would the accent be on the **initiative and intervention** of God Himself – or would it be on **your** ability to have repentance and faith in Him?!?!?

To whom do you give **ultimate credit and praise** for your salvation?

For if first impressions are lasting impressions, then we must submit our first impressions of God, of Salvation, of the gospel & grace to all of what Holy Scripture says!!!

So that we **would NOT** be confused about the nature of grace!

So that we **would NOT** be confused about the nature of God!

And so that we **can ultimately say** with Mr. Cantelon himself:

God came looking for me... searching for me... Halleluiah what a Saviour!

Main Point

The main point that I want us to see as we come to John chapter 6: a **gloriously deep** and **theologically rich** passage of Scripture – is that:

*By His grace God the Father **sovereignly saves** every single one of His children in Christ.*

So 2-part outline here this morning:

Point 1: Decisive **Grace** (35-46)

Point 2: Decisive **Faith** (47-59)

John 6

So, John chapter 6 let's begin at verse 35 – and let's see God's first impression **of our story**...

John 6 verse 35 – Jesus said:

*I am the bread of life...No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again. ³⁶ But as I told you, you've seen me, and yet **you do not believe**. ³⁷ Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me **I will never cast out**. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of Him who sent me: that I should lose none of those He has given me but should raise them up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him **will have eternal life**, and I will raise him up on the last day...*

The grass withers and the flowers fade but the Word of our God stands forever...

Opening Gambit

The passage begins in verse 35...

Jesus Himself continues on with the bread of life discourse!

And after feeding the 5,000 with the 5 loaves and 2 fish:

The people in verse 31 are beginning to turn...

After they had realized that Jesus **would not be** the vending machine bread-giving candy cane King...

He then explains to them the plight of **their sinful condition...**

Look vs. See

And what I find **interesting** about this entire passage is that in verse 40 **after the roles** of the Father and the Son have been clearly established in redemption – after Jesus has spoken to them about the bread of life – Christ is going to speak of the one who *looks on* the Son **as the one who has** eternal life...

*For this is the will of my heavenly Father that everyone who **looks on the Son and believes in Him** will have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day...*

Now think about what Jesus is saying here...

This crowd has been witnessing Jesus the entire time...

They have been witnessing His miracles – they have been hearing His voice – scanning His sermons – following His presence...

And yet!!! **John** says that **although they have seen** Jesus Christ – and they **have looked at** Him for bread:

They **have NOT believed on Him** by faith!

They have not believed on Him for eternal life!

Why?!?!

Well because as we're going to see – Jesus is going to explain for us; **that although** people can see the works of God, and hear the words of God, and know the realities of God – they **do not always** come to God in order to have eternal life...

And the decisive factor between **those who come** and believe in Him – and those **who do NOT**:

Ultimately comes down to **nothing less** than God's **Sovereign Grace!**

The decisive grace of God bringing His people to the Person and Work of Christ!

God's Saving Plan

And so that's what Jesus is going to unpack now in verses 37 to 46!

So let's **begin at** verse 37 – but let's **read from** verse 36 (Jesus says):

But as I told you, you have seen me, and yet you do not believe in me:

Why?!?!

*Because [verse 37] **all that the Father gives me** will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me. This is the will of Him who sent me: that I should lose none of those He has given me but should raise them up on the last day...*

The doctrine of Grace

Now I'm not sure where you are on the whole spectrum of Reformed Theology as you sit here and read in John 6 here this morning...

Whether you identify as a Reformed Calvinist – or whether you feel that you are a bible-believing Arminian – or maybe you're at the stage where you're not even sure what that means – maybe you **don't care** – maybe you think **you're neither of those things** – maybe you're still working it out...

Maybe you're like my wife who enjoys antagonizing me by saying:

I'm not a Calvinist I'm a Jesus-ist – I just believe what the bible says...

To which I respond... okay so you're a Calvinist then...

3 Truths

But regardless of where you are on that spectrum of belief – Jesus is **unapologetic** in affirming for us **3 things** when it comes to our salvation:

1. Man's total inability
2. God's absolute sovereignty
3. And Christ's eternal security

And these 3 things are **the unbreakable chain of what it means** to be saved by God's Sovereign grace!

Total Inability

And so what I wanna do (in this first point) is **just briefly walk us through** these 3 aspects of salvation and what is Jesus saying when it comes to God's grace...

So let me begin with point 1:

Man's total inability...

Have a look again at verse 36 – Jesus says:

*You have seen me, and yet **you do not** believe.*

Verse 44:

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him...

Verse 65:

No one can come to me unless it is granted to him by the Father...

So this is what theologians **throughout the centuries** have referred to as:

Man's Total Inability Or Man's Total Depravity

That apart **from God's free & sovereign grace** opening sinner's eyes to the beauty of the gospel – human beings **are totally unable & unwilling** to come to Jesus Christ **in order that** they may be set free from their sin!

Romans 3

Now there are a number of passages that affirm this truth (far too many for us to quote here this morning) – but let me just give you **one in particular** that **has always stuck with me** when I'm thinking about this truth...

So Romans chapter 3 **verses 10 and following** – Paul the Apostle writes this... he says:

*For we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin as it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands; there is **no one who seeks for God**. For all have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is good, **not even one**...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God!*

So the doctrine of total inability – total depravity – the absolute sinfulness of man – is **not so much saying** that:

Our wills are somehow restricted from seeking God...

That God is somehow restraining us from coming to Him (like we really want Him but He's just holding us back) – that's **not** what it's saying at all!

It's actually saying something **much more profound** than this – that:

We **do not seek** for God – because **we don't want** to seek for God!

It's NOT that you're NOT free to – it's that **you don't want to!**

You don't seek for God because **you hate God...**

You love your sin!

And because you love your sin – you DO NOT DO what is pleasing in His sight!

So if you wanna talk about **having free-will** (and the ability to choose God in salvation) – here's what I think the Bible ultimately says:

Our wills are **totally free** to seek **that which we most love** (that which we most desire – that which we most cherish) – but see **the bible says** that:

Our wills are **totally enslaved** to our sin!

That you and I **love our sin** more than we love God!

Or in the case of John chapter 6:

We love our bread more than we love Jesus!

And so Jesus is saying that their **not coming to Him** (verse 36 you've seen me and yet you do NOT believe)...**is NOT due** to God holding them back and restraining their wills – but rather it's due to their **moral and spiritual inability & refusal** to do so!

This is a decision **on their part** in which they **freely and willingly** delight in **NOT** coming to Jesus – **NOT because** God won't let them but because **they don't want to come to Him!**

They loved bread **more** than they loved God!

They sought bread **over and above** seeking God!

And this is the plight of **every human being** outside of the saving work of grace (*for we have charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin*)...

We are by nature children of God's wrath (Ephesians chapter 2) – our hearts are totally wicked (Jeremiah 17) – and we love our sin!

And so without the **sovereign grace** of God's mercy working on our hearts:

We will **never choose** Jesus over bread...

We will never come to Jesus for eternal life!

So that's the first aspect of **why they reject** the Bread of life:

*They are totally unwilling to come to Jesus **so that** they may have life...*

God's Sovereignty

Second – because we are all dead in our trespasses and sins – we need a divine intervention from God Himself...

We need God's **absolute and divine sovereignty**

So have a look again at verse 37 – Jesus says:

Everyone that the Father gives to me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never cast out...

4 Parts

Now I want you to notice that there are **4 parts** to this transaction of grace promised in verse 37:

1. Number One – The Father has a certain number to give.
2. Number Two – that number is then given to Jesus.
3. Three – all that the Father gives to Jesus **will** come to Jesus.
4. And Four – none of those who come will **ever** be cast out.

This is the unbreakable chain of God's sovereign election – the unbreakable chain of God's sovereign grace!

Jesus is absolutely confident in this logic – He understands that there is a choice prior to your choice **and without His choice** you will never make your choice!...

And so notice that this (choice of God) **is not based upon** some foreknowledge in God that He has of **us choosing Him** in the future!

But this is a choice **solely** based upon God Himself!

In verse 44 Jesus says that:

The Father draws them!

In verse 65 He says:

It is granted to them by my Father!

In verse 63:

The Spirit of God is the one who gives life!

And so in this decisive grace of salvation – **Jesus makes it clear** that it is the Triune God of Scripture (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who **sovereignly** draws His children in, in order to give them to the Son, for eternal life!

God Grants Faith

And again **if we are dead** in our trespasses and sins (which the bible clearly says that we are) then there really is **no other way** that salvation can work!

There's **no other way** that we can be saved apart from God's divine grace!

So remember in Acts 11:18 when Peter recounts the story of the Gentiles coming to faith – and the people **hearing that story** actually say to themselves:

*Clearly God has granted repentance **resulting in eternal life** even to the Gentiles...*

Or in Ephesians 2 verse 8 Paul says:

*For it is by grace you have been saved through faith **and this is not** your own doing; it is the gift of God...*

God grants repentance & God grants faith!

Or 2nd Timothy 1:9:

God saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave to us in Christ before the ages began...

Before you were born – He chose you!

In fact Paul actually says this literally in Ephesians chapter 1 verse 4:

*God chose us in Him **before the foundation of the world...***

So at the end of the day, to be given by the Father **to the Son** is to be elected by God **in eternity past...**

Our salvation in time – reflects God's election in eternity...

Eternal Security

Third – Jesus says that:

All those who are given to the Son (by the Father) **will never be cast out** but will be raised up on the last day...

So this is **yet another doctrine** that theologians have referred to as the *Perseverance of the Saints...*

That every genuine Christian who believes in Jesus **WILL CONTINUE till they die!**

They will not lose their faith – they will not be cast aside – they will not be thrown away!

They will persevere in trusting Jesus because God Himself will keep His promise to **PRESERVE** them!

In fact have a look at what Jesus **in verse 40** – He says:

For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day...

Jesus speaks of the **preservation of believers in such a way** that this raising up of them is a guaranteed event!

It will happen – it will occur – it will come to pass!

James White

In fact **I'm told** that even the Greek here reflects the **permanency of the promise!**

That this is **the strongest possible way** for Jesus to promise that He will never lose any of His sheep!

This is an **absolute impossibility** of Jesus, that He could **ever, ever lose any of the sheep** that God the Father sovereignly gives to the hands of His Son!

All that the Father gives me, will come to me, I will never cast them out – and NOT only will I NOT cast them out I will raise them up!

Jesus' Guarantee

In fact, **so confident** was Jesus, **in keeping His promise to preserve His people**, that He **actually grounds this** promise in the absolute **nature, and character, and mission** of His heavenly Father!

So notice what Jesus goes on to say in verses **38 to 40** – notice how He grounds this promise of salvation:

For (or because) [that is the reason why I can say this is because] I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of Him who sent me: that I should lose none of those He has given me but should raise them up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day...

In other words:

How do we know that **the mission of Jesus** saving His people will proceed?

How do we know that Jesus will be successful in the mission of God??

Because Jesus **grounds His mission** in the **eternal will** and **heavenly purpose** of His heavenly Father!

If the **will** of the Father is to **save a people** – then the **will** of the Son is to **obey** the Father!

And we know that Jesus obeyed his Father perfectly!

He will never lose His sheep!

The Jews Grumbled

And so these are the 3 things that Jesus unpacks **in order to demonstrate** their hard hearted **unbelief and denial**:

Man's total inability!

God's absolute sovereignty!

And Christ's eternal security!

And when the Jews heard this they respond **exactly as the Israelite did** in the wilderness when they were displeased with God's actions – they respond exactly how their forefathers did **by grumbling** – verse 41:

*Therefore the Jews started grumbling about Him because He said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴² They were saying, "Isn't this Jesus the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can He now say, 'I have come down from heaven'? ⁴³ Jesus answered them, "Stop grumbling among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws Him, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: **And they will all be taught by God.** Everyone who has listened to and learned from the Father comes to me— ⁴⁶ not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God. He has seen the Father...*

Biblical Tension

So, in verse 44 now Jesus will give **the negative counterpart** to verse 37!

So verse 37 said:

All that the Father gives me will come to Him...

And now verse 44 says:

No one can come to Him unless the Father Himself draws them!

It's the same thing, but saying it in 2 different ways!

In other words: these are **the 2 sides** of the **one coin** of salvation:

God is **totally sovereign!**

And yet humans are **responsible to come to Him!**

God is the One who draws!

We are the ones who believe!

Knowing our election

And so if you're like me, when I first heard this... I was sitting there wondering to myself:

That if only the elect can come – then how do I know I'm elect?

What if I'm not elect and Jesus **won't allow me to come?**

And the answer that question is **actually really simple** – because Jesus would say:

Come to me – and prove your election!

Come to Jesus and evidence your election!

Because the logic of the bible says that:

When you come to Jesus (in saving faith) – you **only do that** because God the Father is drawing you!

And if He is drawing you – You will come to Him!

The reason you come **is because** He draws!

And the reason He draws **is so** you come!

And that's what Jesus is saying here:

1. God is totally sovereign!
and yet
2. We are totally responsible!

2 lines

Perhaps an illustration would help:

I heard a joke this week about the man who died and went to heaven...and when he got to the gates, there were sort of **2 lines in heaven that people could enter:**

1. The chosen line
- and
2. The decision line

And so he's standing there and someone comes up and says:

Do you identify as a Calvinist or an Arminian...?

And he thought to himself:

*Well that's a very strange question to ask, **but to be honest** I've never really thought about it... you know I was **never quite sure** where to land...was I chosen, was I sent, did I just come...*

*So, uhhhh....I guess **I'll just go over to this chosen line...***

So he goes over to the chosen line and they say to him:

Well, how did you get here...?

And he says:

Well...I just decided I'd come...

They said:

No, no, no. You belong in the other line....

So he goes over to **the other line** and they say:

Well, how did you get here...?

And he said:

Well somebody sent me...

No, no, no. You belong in the other line...

Solving the tension

The point is that these men were trying to use **human logic** to understand **heavenly things!**

They were trying to figure out divine sovereignty using human logic – **when they should have been using Scripture** – verse 45:

For it is written in the Prophets: and they will all be taught by God. So everyone who has listened to and learned from the Father comes to me...

In other words:

God uses **human means** and human efforts – **to bring about** His divine purposes!

That when we submit ourselves to biblical revelation, your eyes will be opened, and you will come to Jesus for salvation – and that coming to Jesus for salvation **demonstrates** that you have been taught by the Father!

You have been given by the Father – and you have been drawn by the Father!

Divine sovereignty – Human responsibility!

Here's how D.A Carson explains it in his commentary on this verse – he says:

Those who receive this divine illumination [from the Father] and respond to it [in faith] show by their coming that they are children and citizens of the New Jerusalem, as the Prophet has foretold...

So God uses **human means** and human efforts – **to bring about** divine **ends and divine outcomes...**

God is totally sovereign – and yet humans are totally responsible for their actions!

And **both parts** must be at play in order to receive salvation!

If you come, **He is drawing you** – and if He is drawing you, **you will come!**

Decisive Faith

And so after speaking about **the divine grace** that God gives in human salvation – Jesus **now goes on** to describes **what that human faith looks like!**

So it's **not just** that God is sovereign, and **we do nothing about it** – but we **must receive** this bread **by believing on Him** in faith (saving faith) – and the way that Jesus pictures this saving faith (and coming to Him for life) is pictured here in terms of ***eating & drinking!***

And that leads us into point number 2:

Decisive Faith!

So let's read from verse 47 – where Jesus says this:

Truly I tell you, anyone who believes has eternal life...

So that **sets the premise** for what He's **about the say in the rest** of this passage – so keep that in mind **this is about faith!**

*Truly I tell you, anyone who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ But this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that anyone may eat of it and **not die**. ⁵¹ **I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever. and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh....***

⁵² *At that, the Jews argued among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"*

⁵³ *So Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, **you do not have life in yourselves**. ⁵⁴ The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood **has eternal life**, and I will raise him up on the last day*

⁵⁵ *because my flesh is **true food and my blood is true drink**. ⁵⁶ The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me **will live because of me**. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven; it is not like the manna your ancestors ate—and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever...and Jesus said these things while teaching in the synagogue...*

Eating and Drinking

Now...this entire section (verses 47-59) is designed to cause **maximal offence** in the mind of a Jew – if He didn't **offend them before** He's certainly offended them now **with this language!**

Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood... why would Jesus say that?!?!

Well it's because that in the Old Testament Scriptures the flesh of the animal was its body, and the blood of the animal was its life...

And so, by drawing their attention **to these 2 elements** Jesus was signalling for them:

The 2 Constituent parts of a Covenant Sacrifice!

There was the body of the animal in which **the Priests and the Levites** would consume **after they had given thanks** to God for **the atonement of sins** – we see that in places like Leviticus 6:26 & Deuteronomy 12...

Blood

But then there was **the blood** of the animal – and **the reason why** the blood of the animal was **offensive** is because in the Old Testament:

No **one drank** sacrificial blood!

The blood was **forbidden to be consumed** by the priests – you **couldn't even** eat the animal **with the blood still in it** – the blood had to be drained at the altar!

And so for the Jew then (even Galileans) this image would have been **deeply offence** to their Jewish minds!

Not Literal

Now obviously Jesus **did not mean this** to be taken literally here – otherwise we would all be in trouble for NOT literally eating His flesh and blood!

Not to mention this whole chapter began with the people seeking to find **literal food to eat** – and yet **Jesus rebukes them** for seeking **literal food!**

So it wouldn't make sense to take this literally!

And we know this because He prefaces the statement in verse 47:

*Truly I tell you, anyone **who believes** has eternal life...*

And then He goes on **to express** what this **believing looks like** – it looks like:

Eating and drinking!

And again we saw last week in verse 35:

He who comes to me will never be hungry, He who believes in me will never thirst!

So coming to Jesus and **trusting** in Jesus **is what it means to eat** of Jesus, and **to drink** of Jesus!

These are a picture of faith!

These are a picture of life!

Eating/drinking Language

And even here in the West we are **not unaccustomed to** strong eating and drinking language...

So often we'll talk about hearing a great sermon:

I drank in that sermon!

Or devouring a book:

I devoured that book!

Or when we see a beautiful sunset, we tell them to:

Drink in the view!

When there is a beautiful sunset – we often hear that we are to:

Drink it in!

Why did they say that of John Bunyan that when you pricked Bunyan he bled bible:

It's because **he devoured the bible!**

And so really Jesus is saying something like this:

Unless you come to me – unless you trust in me – in my death – in my life:

You'll die!

You will die like a starving person dies in the desert **without food, water, and drink!**

Because I am the bread of life – I can save you from death and hell and sin and judgment!

Full Heart Affection

This entire section dear friends **is designed** to speak of **the essence of faith** – and what that faith looks like **when we come to Jesus for eternal life!**

It is coming to Jesus **NOT so much** in a spatial sense – but a **spiritual one!**

It is coming to Jesus **with the full affection of our hearts!**

Now what does that actually look like? – What does it mean to come to Jesus **with our hearts?!?!**

Well I want you to imagine for a moment that you're in a hospital...

I have been to hospital **many times in my life** – and I can tell you that hospitals are **a very lonely place** to be!

And so I want you to imagine for a moment that you're in a hospital...

But you're **not just in any hospital** – you're in one of those **foreign hospitals** that are overseas – you know the ones that don't have **enough** medicine – or bandages – or staff to facilitate the place!

And I want you to imagine that **you've broken your legs** – so you can't even move, you **can't do anything** – all you can do is:

Lie **there in pain** hoping for a miracle – and you're **all alone** – and there's no family – there's no friends – there's **just you in the bed** crying away for weeks!

And then **all of a sudden**, in the corridor outside, you hear a voice...

And it's a voice that you recognise!

And the voice is speaking English!

And you come to discover that it's actually the voice of your wife – or your husband's voice – or your children – or your best friend:

Just someone in life who brings you **great comfort**!

And you just wanna get up and embrace that voice – **but you can't**! Your legs are broken!

And so what do you do in that moment?!?!

Well in that moment **your heart moves** to where your body cannot!

And so in your heart, **you run to the voice** of your mum!

You run to the voice of your dad!

Your heart gets up and it runs through the corridor!

Down the hallway!

And **embraces** their voice in love!

Full Affection

Friends that's what Jesus is talking about here in John 6:

Coming to Jesus in **the full affection** of your heart!

Coming to Him by faith & repentance!

Trusting in Him to take your sins!

And when you eat of this bread **by faith** – when you trust in this sacrificial covenantal death on the cross – Jesus says (verse 58):

You will live forever!

Your sins will be forgiven – your heart will be made clean – and you will be granted eternal life by the Son that **will never be lost** because the Father has drawn you!

And you will see evidence of this in your life:

- You'll no longer live for your **selfish & sinful** ways!
- You'll no longer desire **selfish & sinful** things!
- You'll have **a new found** affection & joy in reading the Bible!
- You'll be able to **persevere in your faith** during trials & tribulations!

- You'll no longer turn to the world in alcohol, or money, or sex, or fame, or fortune to find comfort!
- And you'll have **a burning desire** to tell the world about Jesus!

These are the effects that the new birth will have on each and every Christian who comes to Jesus in faith!

Coming to Jesus in the **full affection** of your heart!

Application

And so what I wanna do is just finish here today with **3 quick points** of application that I want us to see from John 6, that **I think are worth noting** to better appreciate the words of Christ...

Offensive

So **3 quick points** of application – **point number one** this passages demonstrates that:

The message of Jesus is **unmistakably offensive!**

And we're gonna see this come out more **next week** when the disciples grumble against the Lord – but for now **just know** that:

The message of Jesus is **unmistakably offensive!**

Because we **don't like** to think of God in these terms – we **don't like** to have our independence challenged by God – we **don't like** the fact that **we are NOT in control** of our future – and we **certainty don't like** that:

God is sovereign over us!

And all of that is **deeply offensive** to the carnal mind because we love our sin – and we love our autonomy!

And the moment that Christ takes that away from them – the moment He challenges their independence: **they rebel!**

They start to try and figure out a way **to explain it all away:**

Is this not Jesus the Son of Joseph...

We know your parents!

We watched you grow up!

You can't eat flesh and blood!

That's cannibalism!

And **it's the exact same way** the world responds to the message of faith that we bring to their hearts!!!

When we preach Christ and Him crucified – when we preach the Gospel of God's grace – when new preach salvation by Christ alone:

People will be offended!

The message of Christ offends!!!

It comes to break up family – and mother – and daughter – and father!

And so **we need to remember** that every time we preach Christ and Him crucified – **we should not expect** that people are going to embrace our message!

The message of Christ is **unmistakably offensive...**

Comforting

Second I think this passage demonstrates that **NOT only** is the message **deeply offensive** but it's also:

Deeply comforting!

It is a **comforting thing to know** that **God loves us** and **will NOT** forsake us!

That our acceptance before Him is **NOT based upon** ourselves – but solely upon Christ **who will hold us fast!**

I love what J.C Ryle says in his book on perseverance he says:

*What is the best antidote against the believer's fears and anxieties? is it not the doctrine of the perseverance. Let him know that God having begun a good work in him will never allow it to be overthrown. Let him know that the footsteps of Christ's little flock are all in one direction...Let him know that those whom Jesus loves, He loves unto the end. Let him know that He will not allow the weakest lamb in His flock to perish in the wilderness, or the tenderest flower in His garden to wither! Let him know that Daniel in the den of lions, the three children in the fiery furnace, Paul in the shipwreck, Noah in the Ark—were **not more cared for** than each believer in Christ is at the present day. Let him know that he is fenced, walled in, protected, guarded by the Almighty power of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and cannot perish. Let him know that it is not in the power of things present or things to come—of people or of devils—of cares within or troubles without—to separate one single child of God from the love of Jesus Christ!*

Friends the promise of the Gospel is that **He will hold you fast!**

He will be with you – And He will **not lose you!**

And He will keep you till the very end!

And if He loves His father with an everlasting love – then **how much more** will He love you **that has been given to Him** by His Father **that He loves!**

This is an **unmistakably comforting** thing to know that Jesus loves you **even when you sin** and fall short of His glory!

Jesus holds you fast!

Sovereignty

And then thirdly – the passage demonstrates that:

The answer to man's grumbling is the sovereign grace of God!

So there are **4 main rules** in the Harris household that our children **& us** must obey **in order to show them how to love God & love others better!**

And one of these rules in our home – one of the big no no's in the Harris home is **the sin of fussing!**

And we quote to them Philippians 4:4:

Rejoice in the Lord always – and again I say rejoice!

So no fussing – no whining – no complaining – no grumbling!

Because God is sovereign and **He's put us in this place** to teach us something about Himself and how much He loves us!

And when our hearts are angry & dissatisfied in Him – that is a reflection of an **unregenerate heart and an unsanctified** mind!

Now it **doesn't mean** that you're **not Christian** when you grumble against God – but **it does mean** that **you are acting like** a non-Christians when you do!

Now the reason **why that's such a big rule** is because as you **go back over** the Old Testament Scriptures – as you go back and read the Israelites grumbling in the desert – **you start to discover**

that grumbling (or fussing) is one of the most **serious sins that God detests in all of the human heart!**

The sin of grumbling is such a **serious offence** that when Korah's rebellion came against Moses in Numbers 16:

God literally swallowed them up with the earth!

That's how much God hates the sin of grumbling!

And remember that this **entire chapter** here in John 6 **is designed to reflect** to us the story of the Israelites stuck in the desert **who grumbled against God!**

And so **what is the remedy** that God gives for us in our fussing & complaining?!?!

The answer is found here in John 6:

That we are to **reflect upon** the **sovereign grace and goodness** of God in giving to us **that which we do not deserve...**

He saved us, in Him, when we were dead in our sins...

And so if He loved us, and cared for us, **even when we were His enemies** – then **how much more** will He love us (and care for us), when we are His friends...

And so the answer to man's grumbling is the sovereign grace and goodness of God in Christ!

Conclusion

So let me finish here today with a story I found from a guy named Mark Webb a pastor in the states, & the story begins with him teaching a class of students about Reformed theology – he says:

After giving a brief survey of these doctrines of sovereign grace, I asked for questions from the class. One lady, in particular, was quite troubled. She said, "This is the most awful thing

*I've ever heard! You make it sound as if God is intentionally turning away men who would be saved, receiving only **the elect**. I answered her in this vein.*

“[Mam] you misunderstand the situation. You're visualizing that God is standing at the door of heaven, and men are thronging to get in the door, and God is saying to various ones, 'Yes, you may come, but not you, or you, or you...'”

*The situation is hardly this. Rather, God stands at the door of heaven with his arms outstretched, inviting all to come. Yet all men without exception are running in the opposite direction towards hell **as hard as they can go**. So God, **in His election**, graciously reaches out and stops this one, and that one, and this one over here, and that one over there, and effectually draws them to Himself, by changing their hearts, & making them willing to come.*

Election keeps no one out of heaven who would otherwise have been there, but it keeps a whole multitude of sinners out of hell who otherwise would have been there. Were it not for election, heaven would be an empty place, and hell would be bursting at the seams...

Brothers and sisters this is the message that Jesus gives here in John 6:

*Jesus the Bread of life, is life and gives life by His sacrificial death, and the life that He gives is our deepest need, our eternal security, and our souls only hope **of peace with God!***

Will you come to Him this morning dear friends – will you trust in this sacrificial death, and by so doing **evidence your election** – or will you refuse Him like these Jews and miss the joy of eternal life!

For Jesus stands at the door of heaven and He says:

Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest!

Let's pray.

John 6:35-59

Discussion Questions

[Read John 6:35-59]

Main Point: *By His grace God the Father sovereignly saves every single one of His children in Christ.*

Q1. [Read verses 36-37]. What is the reason the Jews have *seen* Jesus but not *believed on* Jesus? – Is there anything in verse 37 that you struggle to believe? – Is there anything that brings you great comfort in these verses?

Q2. How would you define the following:

1. Calvinism?
2. Arminianism?
3. Total Depravity?
4. Unconditional Election?
5. Perseverance of the Saints?

What Scriptures would you use to demonstrate them?

Q3. [Read verse 37 again]. What is the guarantee that the mission of Jesus will be a success? **[See verses 38-40]** – Why is this Good News? – How do we reconcile this promise with those who fall away from Christ?

Q4. [Read verses 41-42]. Why were the Jews grumbling against Him and how does Jesus respond to their grumble? **[See verses 44-45]** – What would you say to someone

who says: “*I want to come to Jesus, but I don’t know if I’m elect?*” – Is there any place in Scripture, you would take them? [See **Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 2:12-13**].

Q5. [Read verses 53-58]. What does Jesus promise to us if we come to Him and believe [See **verses 47, 51, 54, 56, 58**] – What does it mean to eat and drink of Jesus’ flesh and blood?

Q6. How do you understand your conversion experience? (Was it something God did, you did, or both?) – Why do you think that people don’t like the idea that God is totally sovereign in salvation?

Q7. Would you bring in the Doctrines of Grace when presenting the gospel to a non-Christian? Why or why not? – How would you explain these truths to a non-Christian?