

DRAWN TO JESUS

“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: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.” (John 6:44-45)

Unfortunately, as you know, not everyone will become a Christian. In fact, only few will be saved (Matt. 7:14; Lk. 13:23 - 24). Judgement will involve the separation of those who are saved from those who are lost (Matt. 25:31 - 46; Rev. 20:11 - 15). Jesus, however, gives this personal promise: “all that the Father gives me will come to me” (Jn. 6:37). Our text also promises that those “given” by the Father are also “drawn” by the Father. This “drawing” is the focus of our lesson. It somehow involves God’s Word and teaching. Note the message of the prophets that those who come to Jesus are “taught” and “listen” and “learn”. Remember! Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17).

Some aspects of this “drawing” are undoubtedly supernatural and beyond the reach of the finite mind. Other facets, however, are easily understood. For example, after Jesus fed 5,000 men with 5 barley loaves and 2 small fish. The lure of this free food drew these men like a magnet. Jesus even chided them for not coming because they had seen miraculous signs, but because they ate loaves of bread and were filled (Jn. 6:26). As you know, they even wanted to force Him to be their king (John 6:15).

The satisfaction produced by bread and fish, however, was only temporal. The next day they would all be hungry again. Their interest in free food, however, placed them in a position to hear about the True Bread that came down from heaven. God used their carnal desires to expose them to eternal truth. Remember the parable of the sower (Matt. 13:1 - 23). Some seeds fall by the wayside and are eaten by birds. Other seeds fall on stony ground or among the thorns. Some seeds, however, fall on good ground and produce a harvest. The good seed must somehow come in contact good soil in order to produce fruit. Peter wrote to believers: “For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.” (1 Pet 1:23)

Let’s review! (1) No one comes to Jesus unless the Father draws them. (2) This drawing comes from hearing and learning from the Word of God. (3) Even good seed must be planted in good soil in order to grow. (4) It is comforting to remember that the Word of God is alive and powerful (Heb. 4:12). Even when planted by accident it can still draw people to Christ.

The power of God’s Word to produce fruit is seen over and over in Scripture. The people saved at Pentecost, for example, didn’t expect to hear the Gospel they were merely drawn together by the sound of a rushing mighty wind (Acts 2). In Act 3 thousands of others came to Christ because they gathered around a crippled man who was walking, leaping, and praising God. Cornelius heard the Gospel because of an angel (Acts 10), but the Philippian Jailer heard the Gospel because of an earthquake (Acts 16). People on a ship were drawn to the Gospel because of a storm (Acts 27) and people on an island were drawn to hear the Gospel because Paul was bitten by a snake (Acts 28). In these and other examples, pure motives are not necessary. Sometimes people stumble onto great treasure by accident (Matt. 13:44). It needs to be emphasized that there are not different ways to be saved. Everyone who comes to Christ must deny self and take up a cross. There are, however, different ways to come in contact with the Gospel. Paul could rejoice even when Christ was preached out of envy and rivalry (Phil. 1:15).

Jesus said that if He was “lifted up” all men would be “drawn” to Him (John 12:32). Someone questioned the accuracy of this statement by pointing out that all men are not going to be saved. The answer is simple. Gravity draws all objects toward the center of the earth, but if those objects are strongly attached to something, they will not be moved.

The secret to salvation is to break those earthly attachments so we can be truly be drawn to Christ.