

THE FATHER'S WILL IN THE COMING OF HIS SON

John 6:37-40

Intro: For quite some time in my Bible reading I have noticed verses which say in particular why the Lord Jesus came to the earth, and other verses which tell why the Father sent Him. Of course we all know the basic truth of the Gospel that the Father sent the Son and the Son came to provide salvation from sin. But it is interesting to note how it is stated.

And so we read in Luke 19:10: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Or we read in John 10:10 where the Lord Jesus said, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Another verse that I have found interesting is in Matt. 10:34: "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword."

Sometimes expressions like these are those who say that "the Father sent the Son" as in 1 John 4:14, or the familiar "for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." There are many different expressions used in Scripture with reference to the birth and life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Last Sunday we considered together that great passage at the beginning of the Gospel of John where our Lord Jesus Christ is presented as "the Word." And we are told in verse 14 we read,

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

So here we are told that one major purpose for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ was to be a revelation of God. Actually He was the final and most complete revelation of God that we have ever had, or will ever have. All through the OT we have many ways in which God has partially revealed Himself. And each one of those is very important. But if we were to add together all that the OT reveals to us of God, we would have a yet incomplete revelation. But when the Lord Jesus came, John tells us that he beheld the glory of the Father in Christ. When the Lord was with His disciples in the Upper Room, He told His disciples, "if ye had known Me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen Him" (John 14:7). Philip immediately responded by

saying, “Lord, show us the father, and it sufficeth us” (John 14:8). He meant that he would be satisfied to see the Father. Then the Lord responded by saying,

Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? (John 14:9).

We are often amazed when we see how slowly the disciples learned the truth about our Lord. But we are the same way. We take in the truth so slowly. The Lord was very patient with His disciples, and He is very patient with us. But the important thing is that we keep learning. To be sure the glory of God was “veiled in flesh,” but *unveiled* briefly on the Mount of Transfiguration, but our Lord was and is God, and, as I have said before, if the Father had come in human flesh like our Lord did, His Person would have been just like the Lord Jesus Christ was. I hope all of you understand this. When our Lord became a Man, He in no way lost any of His Deity. The baby Jesus was fully God Who had become a human being by the virgin birth.

Now it had to be a most amazing mission for the Lord Jesus to come to earth in human flesh. There must have been no other way for God to accomplish what He sent the Lord Jesus to do. We read in John 1:6 that “there was a man sent from God, whose name was John.” That man was John the Baptist. Now the Lord did say that “among those who had been born of women there was none greater than John the Baptist (cf. Matt. 11:11 and Luke 7:28). But John the Baptist could not say, “He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father.” And he didn’t say that. Neither did Isaiah say that, nor did Daniel, nor did David, nor has any person in his right mind ever said this. *But the Lord Jesus said it, and He said it because it was true!* What John the Baptist did say was that he was not even worthy untie the Lord’s sandals from His feet. He didn’t feel worthy to do the most menial task for our Lord. And we shouldn’t be amazed that Peter at first refused to let the Lord wash his feet.

I. WHY DID THE LORD COME?

There are many answers to that question, all involved in the same mission, but what does our text for today tell us about what the Lord came to do? Remember that some verses dealing with the coming of our Lord to the earth tell us why the Father sent Him, but here He said why He came. You can see it in John 6:38. (Read.) With all of us we have

struggled with the will of God, and continue to struggle with the will of God. We like to feel that we are in control, and it is difficult for us to say as our Lord said in the Garden of Gethsemane, “Nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt” (Matt. 26:39). Our Lord was struggling with what was ahead of Himself at the Cross, but we can see in those words confirmation of the purpose the Lord had in coming: “I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me.” That is why He came, and while contemplating the Cross made Him sweat great drops of blood, yet He would not turn away from doing the Father’s will. So we must not think that doing the will of God was easy for our Lord. I don’t think that anyone yet has ever really understood how our Lord was affected by His own humanity. He was tested just like we are, and had to deal with those testings, but always without sinning.

The Lord Jesus is the only Person Who ever lived on earth Who could say, “I do always those things that please Him,” speaking of the Father. Whether or not to do the will of God, was never an issue with our Lord. You never find that the Lord wanted to do one thing, and the Father wanted Him to do something else. The Father’s will and His will were always the same. This was in part what the Lord meant when He said, “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30). In fact, we can bring the Holy Spirit into this as well. There has never been a dispute between the Members of the Godhead as to what should, or should not be done, in any given situation.

But now let us ask ourselves a question:

II. WHAT ASPECT OF THE FATHER’S WILL WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION HERE?

The answer is very clear, but to the complete nature of what the Lord was talking about we need to go back a verse, and then forward two verses. In fact, I am going back three verses, which would be verse 35, and then back one verse, which would be verse 37.

In verse 35 the Lord declared that He was the Bread of life, and that whoever would come to Him would never hunger, nor would he ever thirst. It was a wonderful promise, but it seems that we might take our Lord’s statement to mean that He did not know, nor was He sure, that anyone would come to Him. But the Lord’s promise was that whoever would come, would never hunger again, nor thirst again. This did not mean that

they would never hunger to know Him better, nor ever thirst for more blessings that would come from Him. He did not mean either of those things. What He meant was that those who came to Him as the Bread of life would know that they did not need to search any longer for that which would satisfy them. People in the world are naturally restless. They never are really satisfied. They try first one thing, and then another. Or they feel that if they have this or have that, they will be satisfied. My Dad worked for a man who felt that he would be satisfied if he were only earning \$100,000 a year (in the days when that was like a million dollars). But do you know what happened to him? Two things: first, he was afraid that he might start to lose money, and second, he wanted to go on to make \$200,000 a year. And it seemed to change his whole personality. He was no longer the good boss that he had been before. I remember many nights when my Dad would come home and he would say that his boss was miserable because he was afraid that he was going to lose a penny.

We have seen in our day how corporate executives, who are making more money than most of us will ever see, are greedy for more. So greedy, in fact, that they run the risk of imprisonment by robbing their stockholders of money which really belongs to them.

So this was a most amazing promise. How blessed we are if we have come to the Lord and have found our satisfaction in Him! We might have struggles in our Christian life, but we would never think of leaving the Lord!

But is the coming of people an uncertain matter? Is it possible that the Father would send His Son into the world as the Bread of life, and that no one would come to Him and eat?

Yes, it would be possible if it were simply left up to people to come. In our Romans study we are about to come to Paul's quotation of Psalm 14 and Psalm 53 which both say that "there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God" (Rom. 3:11). The Lord certainly knows that. He knew that about me, and He knew that about you. Well, what did He do about it? The answer is very clear in Scripture, but some Christians have a hard time believing it. What did He do? Back before there was ever a world or the universe in which we live, *God chose those whom He intended to save! And when He sent the Lord Jesus to earth on a mission of salvation, He gave those people to His Son, and it was especially for them that our Lord carried out His mission.*

When Paul wrote to those in Thessalonica who were trusting in Christ as their Savior, he made this amazing statement:

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 2:13-14).

And what Paul told the Thessalonians, that God had chosen them for salvation, and called them, is true of every person who has ever been saved, or whoever will be saved. He chose us and called us because He knew that we would never come to Christ if he left it up to us.

Now notice what verse 37 says. (Read.) Did our Lord come on a doubtful mission when He came into this world? Certainly not! That is not the way a sovereign God does things. The Lord said that all whom the Father had given to Him, would come to Him, and the Lord promised that He would never reject anyone who comes, and He would never cast them out after they came. Our Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to carry out the Father's will in salvation. Twice our Lord said that this basically was the Father's will – once in verse 39, and again in verse 40.

Let's look at verse 39 first. (Read.)

Not only did the Father choose those He intended to save, and not only did He give all of them to His Son. Not only will they come, but it was a part of the Father's will that the Son would not lose a single one of them. This means that our Lord's record as a Savior is a glorious 100%. This is what Paul was talking about when he wrote Phil. 1:6, reading from verse 3:

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:3-6).

The Lord Jesus Himself said:

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish,

neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and my Father are one.

But now let us move on to verse 40 where our Lord again emphasized what the will of the Father is regarding salvation.

This is the will of the Father, “that everyone which seeth the Son,” that is, who understands Who Jesus Christ is, that He is the Son of God, “and believeth on Him,” meaning Who He is, and what He has done according to the Father’s will, “may have everlasting life.” Everlasting life is God’s life, a never-ending life, a holy life, a new life. And then here as well as in verse 39, our Lord said, “and I will raise him up at the last day.” What is “the last day”? It is the day of resurrection when the Lord will come for us to take us to be forever with Him.

Concl: With most of us, when we were saved, we were only conscious that somehow the Gospel was presented to us, either immediately or over a period of time we came to the realization the we were sinners in need of a Savior, and that Christ died to save sinners from their sins, and so we put our trust in Christ.

But after we were saved, and we learned more about God and Christ and our salvation, we learned that we really didn’t have the whole story correct at all. We learned that long before we chose Christ, He had chosen us, even before time began. Then we learned that when we were convicted by the Gospel message, God was calling us. We learned furthermore that even our faith was a gift of God given to us as we listened to the Word of God. And then we learned that eternal life does not just mean that we will live forever with God, but it means that our lives here and now are completely different because we have become new creatures in Christ.

So being saved is not something that we initiated, but it has been, and will continue to be, the working out of God’s will for us. And since salvation is God’s work, it cannot fail, nor will it ever come to an end.

All of this is beautifully expressed in the hymn,

I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew,
He moved my heart to seek Him, seeking me.
It was not I that found, O Savior true,
No, I was found of Thee.

“To God be the glory; great things He hath done.”