

Lecture 4- Jesus' View on Human Depravity and Free will

That man has not saving grace of himself, nor of the energy of his free will, inasmuch as he, in the state of apostasy and sin, can of and by himself neither think, will, nor do anything that is truly good (such as saving faith eminently is); but that it is needful that he be born again of God in Christ, through his Holy Spirit, and renewed in understanding, inclination, or will, and all his powers, in order that he may rightly understand, think, will, and effect what is truly good, according to the Word of Christ, John 15:5, "Without me ye can do nothing." (Calvinism or Arminianism?)

"In this sinful state, the free will of man towards the true good is not only wounded, maimed, infirm, bent and weakened; but it is also imprisoned, destroyed, and lost. And its powers are not only debilitated and useless unless they be assisted by grace, but it has no powers whatsoever except such as are excited by divine grace. For Christ has said, 'Without me ye can do nothing.'" (John Calvin or Jacob Arminius?)

Jesus' View on Human Sinfulness

And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? **No one is good except God alone.** (Luke 18:19 NASB)

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him! (Matt. 7:11 NASB)

³⁷ Although Jesus had performed so many miraculous signs before them, they still refused to believe in him, ³⁸ so that the word of Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled. He said, "Lord, who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" ³⁹ For this reason they **could not** believe, because again Isaiah said, ⁴⁰ "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, so that they would not see with their eyes and understand with their heart, and turn to me, and I would heal them." (John 12:37-40 NET)

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that **You have hidden** these things from *the* wise and intelligent and **have revealed** them to infants. ²⁶ "Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. ²⁷ "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the **Son wills** to reveal *Him*.

²⁸ "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. (Matt 11:25 NASB)

¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, **because flesh and blood did not reveal this** to you, **but My Father** who is in heaven. (Matt 16:17 NASB)

¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world **cannot** receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. (John 14:16 NASB)

³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NASB)

⁶³ "It is the Spirit who gives life; **the flesh profits nothing**; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. (John 6:63 NASB)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and **men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.** ²⁰ "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." (Jn. 3:15 NASB)

8:39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. ⁴⁰ "But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. ⁴¹ "You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "**If God were your Father, you would love Me,** for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. ⁴³ "**Why do you not**

understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. ⁴⁴ "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶ "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷ **He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason, you do not hear *them*, because you are not of God."**

(John 8:39-47 NASB)

V. 42 - If God was your Father, therefore You would love Me

V. 43 - You CANNOT hear my word [which is why] you don't understand what I am saying

V. 47 – You are not of God [therefore] You do not hear the [words of God].

10:26 "But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. ²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ "My Father, who has **given them to Me**, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. (John 10:26-29 NASB)

V. 26 – You are not of my sheep [which is why] you do not believe.

V. 29 – [To become a sheep and believe] you must be given to Jesus by the Father.

6:26 Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." ²⁸ Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." ³⁰ So they said to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform? ³¹ "Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.'" ³² Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. ³³ "For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." ³⁴ Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread." ³⁵ Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger**, and he who believes in Me will never thirst [are saved]. ³⁶ "But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. ³⁷ "**All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out** [are saved]. ³⁸ "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of **all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.** ⁴⁰ "For this is the will of My Father, that **everyone** who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and **I Myself will raise him up on the last day.**" ⁴¹ **Therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him**, because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven." ⁴² They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven'?" ⁴³ Jesus answered and said to them, "**Do not grumble 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 SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' **Everyone** who has heard and learned from the Father, **comes to Me.** (John 6:35-45 NASB)

There is much debate on the meaning of the word "draw" in John 6:44. Does it mean draw in the sense of "woo" or does it have a stronger sense of a superior force successfully overcoming a person or thing's resistance. Here are all the instances used in the NT. The idea of the word meaning "woo" or of a general prevenient grace given to all doesn't seem to match the NT data.

John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless my Father draws him."

"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to Myself." (John 12:32)

Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. (Jn. 18:10 NASB)

And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find *a catch*." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish. (Jn. 21:6 NASB)

Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. (Jn. 21:11 NASB)

But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities, (Acts 16:19 NASB)

Then all the city was provoked, and the people rushed together, and taking hold of Paul they dragged him out of the temple, and immediately the doors were shut. (Acts 21:30 NASB)

Bruce Ware shares these summary points from the John 6:44 passage:

- 1) The “drawing” of the Father precedes anyone coming to Christ. No one is capable to come to Jesus without the Father being involved.
- 2) The one drawn by the Father WILL be saved (not a mere possibility). The one WILL be raised up.
- 3) “The drawing of the Father has two results. First, it enables sinners to come o Christ (6:44a). Second, because of Christ’s commitment to raise up those drawn (see 6:39 with 6:44), it ensures the final salvation of all those whom the Father has so drawn (6:44b).”
- 4) That the drawing of the Father “cannot be a general drawing [prevenient grace] merely making possible belief in Christ is evident in that the drawing produces both belief and actual salvation.”
- 5) The drawing and teaching of the Father (6:45) show that this is not general, but a specific selective drawing that results in EVERYONE who is drawn by the Father coming to Jesus, being saved, and being guaranteed to be raised up on the last day. There are no exceptions in these verses where someone is drawn by the Father, but walks away, rejects the Father’s drawing fully, or is lost.

6:60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this* said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?" ⁶¹ But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble?" ⁶² "What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?" ⁶³ "**It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing**; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. ⁶⁴ "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He was saying, "**For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.**" (John 6:60-65 NASB)