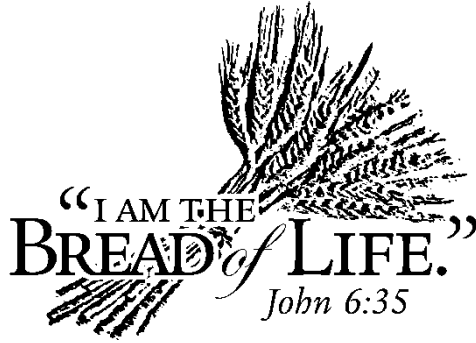


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 8



I WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT

Scripture Texts: John 6:35-40; Acts 10:34-43

God desires to save and keep us. He will never cast out those who come to Him. He provides the means for us to remain in Him.

Jesus came to save all (1 **Timothy 2:4-6**). Then why are not all saved? Because there are conditions to be met by us. Contrary to the teaching of some, there ARE things a person must do before he can receive the salvation Christ offers. In the lesson verses, those are given

as fearing God and working righteousness. **Him that cometh to me . . .** Is there any other way to come except in repentance and trust and obedience?

MEMORY VERSE: *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. —John 6:37*

The Staff of Life

John 6:35-36 John describes the nature of Jesus by many figures of speech. He called Him Light, the Good Shepherd, the Way, the Truth, and the Life; the Door by which men enter into salvation; the Vine from which the branches grow. In today's lesson he notes that He is the **Bread of Life**.

Two things are to be said about bread: first, that it is the staff of life, and second, that it satisfies an elemental hunger. Nothing contains so many and such perfectly balanced food values as does a grain of wheat. A person may or may not fancy bread as a diet, but the fact remains that it is nature's outstanding staple. Likewise, we know that bread is the one article that a hungry world cries out for most. Other articles of food are tasty and desirable, but bread is essential. Christ the Bread of Life satisfies humanity's greatest need. He alone can satisfy the hunger of soul that is even deeper than the hunger of the body.

No One Refused

John 6:37 If this were the only verse we had on this subject, we might think (1) that the Father chooses only certain ones to be saved, (2) that He saves them without their choice, and (3) that those saved can never again be lost. These teachings find no support in the Scriptures. Compare all Scripture together. Read **Revelation 22:17; John 10:28-29; 2 Peter 2:20**. Jesus was talking to unbelievers. He had just said, **Ye also have seen me, and believe not**. They wanted the material benefits of following Jesus but not the spiritual ones. Then Jesus said, **All that the Father giveth me shall come to me**. All sinners who come to Jesus come by the operation of the Father. The Holy Spirit opens the way. **No man can come to me, except the Father . . . draw him (John 6:44)**. Those who are led by Him come voluntarily.

Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. Jesus refuses no one. What a precious promise! He came to save sinners. He desires that none be lost. He never turns one away who wants to be saved. He never casts out after saving. No man can pluck us out of God's hand, but we can remove ourselves from His hand.

God's Will, Jesus' Purpose

John 6:38-43 Jesus' purpose is to do the Father's will. His will is that every saved one be resurrected to everlasting life. The purposes of God are all continuing and eternal. He starts nothing to destroy it. Any death and destruction that occurs is from the devil. God's plan is that no saved one should ever be lost.

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I should lose nothing. To accomplish this, He gives them His nature through the Holy Spirit. If they obey Him, they will be fruitful. They **shall never fall.** (2 Peter 1:10).

One of the greatest of truths is that Christ receives all sinners who come, cleanses them from sin, and keeps them. It is beyond explanation, but it is blessedly true. There is no other haven open to all. There is no other who sets no limits to the depth he will go to lift one up. Read **Isaiah 1:18; Hebrews 7:25.**

No Person Excluded

Acts 10:34-35 When God led Peter to the house of Cornelius, a Roman soldier, He taught him a truth he had not known before. Peter said, **Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.** No person means more to God than any other. Some He can bless more because they yield to Him more. But He loves all equally. **In every nation**—Peter had thought the Jewish nation only was favored by God. Now he sees that ALL people are **accepted with him** on the same terms—**he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness.** High or low, rich or poor, intelligent or ignorant—God loves all. He offers to all the same full salvation and inheritance. The beggar dying on the street is just as welcome as the ruler of a nation. **The Lord is . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance** (2 Peter 3:9).

Here is a truth about human relationships that Peter had never known. **God is no respecter of persons.** What a revolutionary doctrine! God had shown him that through His name everyone that believeth on Him shall receive remission of sins. As Peter spoke the words "remission of sins," the Holy Spirit fell with power on Cornelius and his Gentile friends. It was a sight so marvelous to behold that Peter and his companions could scarcely believe their eyes. For centuries the Jew had lived apart from the Gentile. Now God had declared all men equally precious in His sight, and for the first time under the Christian dispensation, He had caused the Holy Spirit to come upon men and women who were Gentiles. God always keeps His promise.

Today's lesson is a rebuke to anyone who scorns any race or social class; a wise lesson on the divine nature of missionary work. It records a major turning point in the spread of Christianity. It is important because it introduces the spreading of the Gospel from the Jewish to the Gentile world. It means the Gospel for everyone and the bringing of the benefits of Christ to all men.

A fact to dwell on in this lesson is that both Peter and Cornelius were men of prayer. God disclosed His purpose to them both while they were praying.

JUST A THOUGHT

Prayer is the tiny nerve that moves God's mighty hand.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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