

**Open your Bibles to The Gospel of John 6:35-40.**

- This morning we'll be reading a famous text from the "Bread of Life" discourse.
- And we'll be considering Jesus Christ's promises to sinners who come to Him.

**It's Reformation Sunday.**

- The Sunday before October 31st has come to be celebrated as the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.
- On Tuesday, many of us will celebrate Reformation Day.
- That is, many will celebrate the recovery of the Gospel and the restoration of the Scriptures to their rightful place as the sole infallible authority over Christ's Church, and how God used faithful men to bring this about.

**In many churches, one of the Five Solas of the Reformation will be preached today.**

- "Sola" is the Latin word for "alone."
- The Five Solas are: Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone, and To the Glory of God Alone.
- And it's good that many will preach these essential doctrines of the Christian Faith.
- At minimum, each of those glorious doctrines undergird the preaching of every true church every Lord's Day.

**But I'm not going to preach topically on any one of those doctrines today.**

- Instead, I'm going to preach the simple Gospel.
- I'm going to preach the simple but profound promises of Jesus Christ to sinners that are found in this text.
- And I'm going to do that because the Reformation was the recovery of the Gospel.
- It wasn't about Luther or Calvin. It wasn't about breaking from Rome and declaring spiritual war against Antichrist.
- The Reformation was and is about Jesus Christ and His glorious Gospel found on the pages of God's sufficient and infallible Word.

**My goal this morning, with God's help, is to set Christ before you in the glory of His grace.**

- Because WE NEED TO SEE HIM.
- And, by God's grace, I will declare to you some of the precious promises of the Lord Jesus.
- Because WE NEED TO HEAR HIM.

**So, are you weary? Are you weak?**

- Do you wonder if you'll make it to the end and be found in Christ?
- Are you hungry for salvation and true life?
- Do you know that you're a needy sinner?
- If so, listen up and receive the Bread of Life who gives life to those who come to Him.
- May God bless the preaching of His Word.

**If you would, and are able, please stand with me now for the reading of the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God.**

## **John 6:35-40**

**[35]** Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

**[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 whoever 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 nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

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

## **(PRAY)**

### ***Our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ,***

*•Speak to us. In the deepest places of our hearts, speak to us.*

*•By your Holy Spirit, speak words of peace and life to our souls.*

*•By your Almighty power, speak through the mouth of the preacher and declare your Gospel to us.*

*•Show us your glory as we listen to your Word.*

*•As your Father has willed, save your People. And preserve your saints as we feed on you by faith.*

*•Speak, Lord. For your servants are listening.*

*•Amen.*

**1.) CONTEXT:** Jesus is talking with a crowd of Jews.

- They had just recently seen Him perform a miracle of multiplying bread to feed the multitudes.

- They had been fed by Him. And now they were seeking another miracle of the same kind.

- But they did not believe that He was the Messiah and Son of God.

- This then led Jesus to speak about what the miracle pointed to. That the point was not about satisfying physical hunger, but that He would give spiritual life.

**We start in v35:** “Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life...’”

- This is an IDENTITY statement. Jesus wants us to know who He is. He is “the bread of life.”

**But what does that mean?**

- In the preceding verses, Jesus had been talking to the crowd about how God had provided manna (bread from heaven) to the Israelites in the wilderness.

- He then said that there was a truer, better Bread from Heaven. He was referring to Himself.

- He said, “...but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is HE WHO COMES DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND GIVES LIFE TO THE WORLD.”

- The Bread from Heaven is a “He.” It’s a Person. But they didn’t catch that. So they said, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

- And His reply was, “I AM the bread of life.”

## **Did you catch that? IT'S HIM!**

- He is the One “who comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world.”

- He is the Bread that has come into the world to give true life. Not mere prolonged earthly existence. But eternal life with God.

- Like the manna that came down from Heaven in the wilderness to give physical life to the Israelites so they didn't die, Jesus Christ has come into the world to give spiritual, eternal life, so sinners do not perish forever.

## **And that's not a guess.**

- In v51, Jesus says, “I am the living bread that comes down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, HE WILL LIVE FOREVER...”

- He's talking about eternal life. He's talking about salvation from sin and damnation for sin.

- He is the only One who can give THAT to sinners.

## **And how will He do that?**

- He says, “...And the bread that I give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

- By giving His FLESH (His life), He will give life.

- By dying at the Cross to satisfy the wrath of God against sinners, He gives life to sinners.

- He's talking about what He will do later.

- He will take upon Himself ALL THE SINS of all those who would ever believe, and go the Cross and there be punished by God in their place.

- He's talking about the atonement He would make for sinners. How He would take away the wrath of God that stands against sinners, by SUFFERING IT FOR THEM.

- In order to give eternal life, He MUST FIRST DIE.

**A payment must be rendered to the justice of God.**

- Someone must pay for what you have done. Someone must pay for your sins, OR YOU WILL.

- But Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man in one Person, stood in the gap, laying on hand on God and one hand on men, and bore the very wrath of God in their place.

- And in that act, He made peace between God and sinners.

**He is truly the Bread of Life.**

- He is the Bread that gives life to all who will receive Him with the mouth of FAITH.

- Just as you will die without bread (food), without Jesus Christ you will die forever, you will perish eternally in Hell for your sins.

- But again, those who “eat” the Bread by faith, will live forever. That’s the point here.

**Now, there is much more that can be said about Jesus than this.**

- He is God, Lord, King, Judge, Lawgiver, and much more.

- But that is not the point of His words here.

- Here, Jesus wants you to know that HE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE.

- He is the One who has come down from Heaven to give life to sinners.

**THAT IS WHO JESUS CHRIST IS!**

- And He is glorious!
- He loves the unlovable. He saves the unsavable.
- He gives to the needy. He is good to the wicked.
- He takes in those who are vile.
- He saves sinners. He loves sinners.
- He is the Bread of Life that gives life to the world.

## **2.) And because of that, He makes His first promise of our text:**

•“...whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

•Again, this is an offer of eternal life. And it is for those who “come” to Him.

•And notice that “whoever comes” is paralleled with “whoever believes.”

•So “coming” to Christ is “believing” in Christ.

•To “eat” the bread is to use the “mouth of faith.”

•And whoever believes will never hunger or thirst again, but will be satisfied and LIVE FOREVER.

•The need for peace with God, righteousness before Him, forgiveness of sins, eternal life, a purpose for living now, support, strength, wisdom, holiness, every need that you have will be met if you believe in Jesus Christ.

### **But what does it mean to “believe” in Jesus?**

•It’s not a mere recognition that He was a real person. It’s not a mere acceptance of the facts of the Bible. It’s not an intellectual understanding of the Gospel.

•No. It’s much more than that.

•To believe is to TRUST IN HIM. It’s to stake everything on Him.

•It’s to put your life in the hands of Jesus Christ saying,

“I trust that you will make me righteous. I trust that your sacrifice takes away my sins. I trust that in you I have forgiveness of my sins. I trust that you and you alone can and will save me from what I deserve.”

- To believe in Jesus is to forsake yourself and all your attempts at righteousness before God, all your good works, and trust in Him alone.

- It's to know that you are a sinner in desperate need of Christ and to believe that He is both willing and able to save you.

**And Jesus says, those who believe in Him will live.**

- Do you hear that?
- LIFE IS BEING HELD OUT TO YOU if you will come.
- It's yours for the taking. Jesus is speaking to you.
- How do I know that He's talking to you? How do I know that this promise is being extended to you?

- Because Jesus says, **“WHOEVER COMES... WHOEVER BELIEVES.”**

- The offer of eternal life is UNIVERSAL. If you come, it's yours. If you believe, it's yours.

**3.) But, sadly, many do not take Christ up on His promise.**

- So He goes on to say, **“But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.”**

- The crowd that had seen His miracles and had heard Him preach, rejected Him. They scorned His offer of eternal life.

**But their rejection didn't shake Him. He had an unbreakable confidence in spite of them.**



•And that's why He went on to say, "All that the Father gives me will come to me..."

•Many reject Him. And I'm sure that saddened Him to some degree.

•But He had confidence that His mission to save sinners, the purpose for which He came into the world, **WOULD BE A TOTAL SUCCESS.**

•All that the Father gave Him will come to Him.

### **This text informs us of a glorious truth:**

•God chose a People from eternity to belong to Christ. Before the foundation of the world, God chose individuals to belong to His Son.

•And He gave that People to the Son from all eternity.

### **Think of that for a minute:**

•The Father gave a GIFT of People to His Son, that they might love, obey, honor, and worship Him for eternity.

•Now, this People would be a sinful People. And for them, the Son must make atonement.

•But they were nevertheless given to Him by His Father that they **MIGHT BE HIS FOREVER.**

### **And Jesus says, THEY WILL COME TO HIM.**

•It is inevitable. Those who have been chosen by the Father and given to the Son **WILL COME.**

•God will ensure it. God will draw them to Jesus (v44).

•Though they will resist at first, being bound in their sin and under the tyranny of Satan, God will change their hearts, make them able and willing to believe, and bring them to Christ.

- It WILL happen. **“WILL COME to me,”** says Jesus.
- By God’s irresistible grace, they will come.
- They will be awestruck and overjoyed at His promises and grab them by faith.

**Jesus will have the fullness of the gift that the Father gave to Him from all eternity.**

- He will have the fullness of the reward for which He would die!

**4.) And that brings us to the second promise of Christ:**

**•“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and WHOEVER COMES TO ME I WILL NEVER CAST OUT.”**

- I want you think about that phrase in two ways:
  1. Whoever comes to Christ will be received by Him. He won’t turn them away.
    - He will take them in. They will not be denied by Him.
  2. Whoever comes to Christ will never be cast away.
    - They will be His FOREVER.
    - He will keep them, preserve them, continually forgive them, give them every grace, and never, for any reason whatsoever, abandon them.

**Hear this:** The one who comes to Christ will never be turned away, and will never be turned out.

**First, Jesus says, “WHOEVER comes to me...”**

- There are some who have a hard time believing that

Christ's promises are for them.

- But let this phrase forever remove all doubt. Jesus says, **"WHOEVER comes..."**

### **Let me spell this out for you.**

- The word "WHOEVER" answers every objection that this promise is not for you:

- "I've done so many horrible things." Whoever comes!
- "I'm too bad right now." Whoever comes!
- "I'm old and have lived long in sin." Whoever comes!
- "I've never wanted anything to do with Him yet. Why should He receive me now?" Whoever comes!
- "I'm so young and insignificant." Whoever comes!
- "I've been a religious hypocrite for years." Whoever comes!
- "I have doubts." Whoever comes!
- "I'm not smart with theology." Whoever comes!
- "I'm such a mess." Whoever comes!
- "I have nothing to offer Him." (That's a good realization, because nobody does!) Whoever comes!
- HE WILL SAVE WHOEVER COMES TO HIM!
- The word "WHOEVER" is your warrant to come to Christ.

### **Now, I know that some of you worry about whether or not you've been chosen by God.**

- You worry whether or not you're one of the Elect.
- I understand that. But let Christ put that worry to rest for you:

- He said, **"ALL THAT THE FATHER GIVES ME WILL COME to me..."**

- If you have come to Christ in faith, it's because you

were chosen by God.

- Nobody else comes! Nobody else believes.
- So, hear me: Don't ask whether or not you're Elect. Instead, ask whether or not you BELIEVE. Because THOSE WHO BELIEVE ARE THE ELECT.
- If you have come, then you were given to Christ!

**Second, Jesus promises** "whoever comes to me I WILL NEVER CAST OUT."

- In the Greek, this is an incredibly strong negative. More literally it says, "I will never, no, never cast out."
- There is comfort and peace in these words!
- He will never, no, never, for any reason whatsoever, ever turn you out once you have come to Him.
- It doesn't matter what you do. It doesn't matter what sin you commit. He will not cast you out.
- If you come to Him, YOU WILL BE SAVED. PERIOD.

**And this is SO FOREIGN to what we expect.**

- Though this is the greatest news sinners have ever heard, we have a hard time with it.
- We think that there has to be a cut-off point. There has to be some line, some sin, some unfaithfulness, that will get Christ to cast us out of salvation.
- Even my little daughter asked me last week in family worship, "Daddy, if we do bad things will God stop loving us?"
- That's what we think is going to happen, isn't it? We think there has to be something that will make Christ cast us out.

**Why can't we just take Him at His word?**

- Why do we try to look for ways to make Him a liar?
- Is He not kind enough to save us no matter how badly we might fail after coming to Him?
- Is He not gracious enough to continue forgiving us?
- Is He not loving enough to continue to love us?
- Is He not merciful enough to shower us with mercy?
- Is He not strong enough to keep us though we stray?
- Is He not faithful enough to His own promises to keep them, even though we are utterly unworthy of them?
- Surely, you don't have such a low opinion of the Savior!

**But let me encourage you to believe this with one biblical example of Christ's grace toward one who had come to Him and then sinned HORRIBLY:**

- The Apostle Peter.
- Three times he denied even knowing Christ. He even cursed His holy name.
- AND JESUS STILL DIDN'T CAST HIM OUT.
- Why? Because Jesus still loved Peter.
- Why? Because Jesus' love for Peter was not dependent upon how lovable Peter was, but on how faithful He is.

**Please, hear me: CHRIST IS NOT A HARSH MASTER!**

- He is not an unwilling Savior.
- Banish any such thoughts from your mind right now.
- He gladly receives all who come to Him. For all who come to Him are loved by His Father and have been given to Him as a gift.
- He will take you in. And He will take you in

FOREVER.

**5.) But Jesus doesn't stop there. He wants to further encourage you to come to Him.**

•So He goes on to give an argument for why no sinner who believes in Him will be lost:

•“For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life...”

- Notice the word “for.” This is explanatory.
- Jesus is telling you WHY you will be received and never cast out.

**He says that He has** “come down from Heaven, not to do my own will but the will of Him who sent me.”

•His origin is heavenly. He existed PRIOR to coming to earth. He is God. The Second Person of the Trinity.

•And His coming down from Heaven is a reference to His Incarnation. Where God the Son united a human nature to Himself.

•So, Jesus is talking now about the PURPOSE of the Incarnation. He's talking about WHY He came. And WHY He came is linked to WHY those who come to Him will certainly be saved and never lost.

**And here is the reason He came down from Heaven:** “...not to do my own will but the will of Him who sent me.”

- He came to do the will of His Father. He came to do

the will of God.

- Now, to be sure, Jesus is God. God is a Trinity of Persons, who can be distinguished from one another, but share the one undivided divine essence. Three Persons in the One Being who is God.

- So then, the will of God the Father is also the will of God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, for God is ONE.

- So, when Jesus says, “I have come down from Heaven, NOT TO DO MY OWN WILL,” He is referring to His human will.

- Remember, Jesus has a human nature as well as the divine nature. Two natures in one Person.

- So then, He has a human will AND the divine will.

- And His human will, properly speaking, IS NOT the will of God. For God is not a man.

- BUT, Jesus’ human will is always in perfect agreement with it, because He is the perfect man.

### **Here’s the bottom line to all this:**

- Jesus is saying that He will never cast out any who come to Him because the purpose of His coming was to do the will of God.

- And He always perfectly does the will of God.

- And what is the will of God? Jesus tells us:

- “And this is the will of Him who sent me, that I should LOSE NOTHING OF ALL THAT HE HAS GIVEN ME, but raise it up on the last day.”

- God’s will, that Jesus came to do, is that Jesus lose none of those who come to Him, but save them.

- So then, Jesus Christ, the perfectly obedient man, DESIRES TO SAVE whoever comes to Him, because GOD DESIRES IT.

**Catch this:** IN BOTH NATURES, as God and man, Jesus Christ truly desires to save all who come to Him.

- It is not a begrudging thing in Him. His arm is not twisted to receive sinners and keep them.
- It is the will of God and the will of Christ that HE LOSE NOTHING of all the Father has given Him.

**My dear friends, God's will is NOT that Jesus should make a mere offer of salvation to sinners.**

- His will is that Jesus should SAVE those who believe.
- God's will is NOT that Jesus should distinguish between those who come to Him and only save some.
- His will is that Jesus SAVE ALL who come to Him.
- God's will is NOT that Jesus should only for a short time accept sinners who come to Him.
- His will is that Jesus SAVE THEM.
- God's will is NOT that Jesus should grow weary with believers who sin, and then cast them out.
- His will is that Jesus SAVE THEM.
- And Jesus has come to do the will of God.

**God's will is that Jesus Christ should receive the fullness of the gift that was given to Him from eternity.**

- And so, Jesus will save all who come.

**God's will is that Jesus save sinners and keep them saved so that they are raised up to eternal life on the Last Day.**

- That Jesus would PRESERVE those who come to Him.



- That Jesus would NEVER cast them out.
- God's will is that Jesus receive forever a People for the praise of His Name!
- And Jesus has come to do the will of God.

**NOTE:** What good grounds for your confidence that Jesus will save and keep you!

- What good grounds for assurance!

**Now some will ask, "What if I walk away from Christ? What if I stray?"**

- Answer: If a sinner ever really came to Him in faith, Christ will GO GET THEM BACK.
- He will restore their soul.
- He is the Good Shepherd who does not lose sheep.
- Sometimes sheep go astray. And the Good Shepherd goes and gets them back! He finds them!
- If Christ starts with 100 sheep given to Him by the Father, then He will finish with 100 sheep.
- His People may stray into sin, but He will, in one way or another, bring them back.
- That is, He will bring them to a point of renewed repentance and faith.
- Why? Because God's will is that Jesus "lose nothing of all that He has given me."

**One last thing about God's will in these verses.**

- Jesus says that God wills that "everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life."
- My dear friends, I know I'm laboring the point, but I want you to know and see.
- It is those who BELIEVE in Jesus who have eternal

life.

- It is those who trust in Him who have it.
- Not the strong. Not those who are always exemplary in morality. Not those who have good works to bring.
- THOSE WHO BELIEVE have eternal life.
- And eternal life, by definition, cannot be lost. It is eternal. And it is ALREADY GIVEN to those who believe.

### **Hear this and be glad!**

- It is the sovereign and effective will of God, which Jesus will gladly and perfectly execute, that not one single sinner who comes to Christ in faith will ever be lost!
- Hear that! If you believe, you are saved! You are saved! You are saved!
- Nothing and no one can take it away from you. And you cannot lose it.
- Salvation is yours because you are Christ's!

**ILLUSTRATE:** When I cross the road with my little girl, I tell her to hold my hand so she doesn't get hit by a car. So I don't "lose" her.

- But, really, her little grip on my hand doesn't matter much.
- Why? Because I'M HOLDING ON TO HER.
- And I will not let anyone or anything, not even her, take her hand out of mine.
- Yes, she's holding on to me. I can feel her grip. But, more importantly, I'm holding on to her.

**BELIEVER, THIS IS YOU AND CHRIST!**

- You are holding on to Him by faith.
- But, more importantly, He is holding on to you.
- And His grip is the grip of Almighty God!
- He will not lose you. He will not lose a single one who believes in Him.
- You who believe will not perish. You will not go to Hell. You will certainly be saved because Jesus holds on to you, even when your grip on Him fails.

**6.) Now we come to the last promise of Christ. It's at the end of v40:**

- "...and I WILL raise him up on the last day."
- Now, why does Jesus say this here? It seems a bit redundant at first glance.
- He's already sad that He has come to do the will of His Father. And that will is that Christ raise up believers to eternal life on the Last Day.
- So why does He say this?

**He says this to highlight the certainty that HE WILL DO IT.**

- Hear His beautiful words: "I WILL."
- He says to you, "I WILL."
- The promise to you is sure. He is no liar.
- It is for you. It is for whoever will believe.

**But, as we read in v36, the sad reality is that many reject Christ's promises.**

- Those present that day did not believe.
- They saw Him. They saw His works. They heard His words.
- The Bread of Life was standing right in front of them

and yet they did not believe in Him.

**My dear friends, DON'T BE LIKE THEM!**

- Those who refuse the Bread of Life will perish.
- Don't be like them, who were always looking for another miracle, another sin, another reason to believe.
- Don't be like them, who always had another objection, another reason to put off believing, another reason to not believe at all.

**Hear me:** You have seen Christ today.

- He has come to you in the preaching of His Gospel.
- He has spoken to you through the preaching of His Word.
- He has appeared today and set Himself and His promises before you.

**Would you eat?**

- Would you never hunger or thirst again?
- Would you be saved?
- Would you have have peace with God?
- Would you have eternal life?
- THEN BELIEVE IN HIM AND LIVE!

**If you do not come to Him, you will still be raised up on the Last Day.**

- But not like those who believe.
- He will raise you up. But it will be to your everlasting shame and condemnation.
- It will be a resurrection to judgment and not to life.
- Do not be like Jesus' first audience who turned away, refusing to be saved.

- Come to Him and live!

### **7.) And what do you need to bring when you come?**

- Only your need for Him.
- Come to Him acknowledging that you're a sinner and you need Him to be your Savior.
- Come empty handed. Come with an empty belly, hungry for the Bread of Life.
- Come with the mouth of faith and eat.

### **You bring nothing else.**

- You don't bring your works. Or your righteousness. Or your merit. Or your arguments. Or your pedigree. Or your knowledge.
- You bring nothing at all to Christ.
- YOU JUST COME.

### **Even if it's with a weak faith, COME!**

- He does not say that only those with strong faith will be saved. He says, "everyone who looks on the son and believes in Him should have eternal life."
- He says, "whoever comes to me I will never cast out."
- So come with your weak faith. But come!
- He will not cast you out.

### **And to those who have believed, to the Christian, let me say this:**

- Rely upon His grace.
- Rest your soul in His nail scarred hands.
- Make the comfort of His words your bed.
- Receive strength from His promise to keep you.

•For you belong to Him. And you are His forever.

**May God grant each one of us to believe. And believing, rest in the Christ who saves us.**

•Amen.