

The Gospel of John

Lesson #63

The Journey

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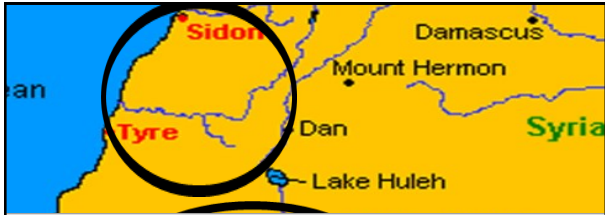


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The Gospel of John

Matthew 11:20 Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. 21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."

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Dick Stouffer asked me after class (2) weeks ago – If Jesus knew what both of those areas would do with his message why didn't he preach and do many miracles in Tyre and Sidon?

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The Gospel of John

Matthew 15:21 And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." 23 But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." 24 He answered, "**I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**"

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- John 6:43 Jesus answered 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."
- "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him" ?? ... what if I'm not drawn?"
- John 12:32 "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will **draw** all people to myself."

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- “Draw” in Greek, “helkuw” (hel-koo’-o)
 - to draw, drag off
 - metaph., to draw by inward power, lead, **impel**
- From the Cambridge Dictionary
 - to make someone feel that they must do something:
 - [+ to infinitive] *She was in such a mess I felt impelled to (= felt I had to) offer your services.*
 - *I wonder what it is that impels him to exercise all the time.*

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The Gospel of John

- No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws (**drags**) him.
- And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw (**drag**) all people to myself.
- When you see the original meanings of the words you could come away thinking that we do not come to Christ without some serious persuasion.

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- So, we must be dragged to Jesus? Well, that is what the word, “helkuw” means.
- I would not think of one being dragged to Jesus against their will – the Bible does not teach that.
- Instead, we are probably meant to ponder the battle that goes on when we are saved – our flesh and our enemy need to be forcefully overcome.

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I want you to feel the weight of this verb – it speaks to the force behind the call of God to save us. Sometimes the call is “come unto me all ye who are weary and heavy laden”, and sometimes the call is “repent and be baptized”, and still other times the call is in the gentlest of terms like, “suffer the little children to come to me”. He extends the call to all and while you may be reticent to obey, his call it is not a call that can be easily ignored. In fact, when the call is heard and understood the one called who chooses to resist might look like one who is fighting against an unseen opponent. They may seem irrational and confused not even knowing they are fighting the “dragging” of God from a place of the darkest darkness to the lightest light.

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- In John 6:44 When you see, “and I will raise him up on the last day” do not think of the last day in the most literal sense.
- Often the term “last day” refers to the time of the end - later we will read, “Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” John 11:24
- 1st John 2:18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. (written around 95 A.D.)

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Are we living in the “last days”? John, the Apostle, declared as much for his generation when he said, “this is the last hour.” so if John thought 95 A.D. was the last days, then what is the year 2023? Like everyone else you listen to, I do not know how close we are to Jesus’ coming for us. What I do know is that believing Jesus could come today is the healthiest way for the Christian to live because according to John such an expectation has a governing influence on us. 1st John 3:2 Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

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• John 6:45 It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—

• Heard and learned what? A reference to the lostness of man, the forgiveness from a Savior, and the obedience required of us.

• You will also notice another condition for a soul who would be saved is layered upon verses #37 and #44 where Jesus cited "all the Father gives" and "no one come unless they are drawn".

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• John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

• John 6:44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.

• At some point we might think, "coming to Christ is so complicated I can't understand it" – exactly! When the Holy Spirit has one ready then it's believe and receive and so simple a child can do it, but getting there is complex.

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A complicated set of circumstances are in play every time one believes. We just looked at the Greek word for draw – it is the word, "helkuw" and means to drag, to impel one to move from unbelief to belief. If we had the time to have every believer in the room tell their conversion story, we would find that all our stories are connected by some common threads, yet they are all very different – unique in fact in the strictest sense of the word. Perhaps God does not choose to tell us exactly all that goes into a conversion because we would soon turn it into a formula. In fact, we already do try to formulize conversions by "saying the sinner's prayer", or by "going forward", or by other outward means when the conversion of a soul is always an inside job.

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- John 6:46 Not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. 47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life.
- Verse #47 is a good example of a verse that must be seen in context – whoever believes has eternal life. Believes what?
- The context of this section is that of Jesus being the “Bread of Life” – that which satisfies and sustains.

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The Gospel of John

Maybe Jesus is telling us more than we realize with his “I am the Bread of Life” declaration. When we think of bread as that which satisfies and sustains the soul perhaps, we could draw some additional assurance for our own conversion. Simply stated, how long ago was it that you committed your life to Jesus, and how satisfied are you in him?

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Questions?

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