

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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What Draws Us

(Jerry Fite)

Jesus said, “*No man can come to me, except the Father who sent me draw him...*” (John 6:44). Before man is able to come to Jesus, a drawing power must issue from the Father. We do not come to Jesus without first being drawn to Him; and we are not drawn to Him without first the Father applying His drawing power.

Jesus’ word “*draw*” occurs elsewhere in the New Testament which might help us understand the “strength” of the power being used to draw us. Peter “*drew*” a net full of 153 great fishes to land (John 21:11). Desperate men “*dragged*” Paul and Silas into the market place in Philippi before judicial rulers for examination and jail time (Acts 16:19). With Jerusalem in an uproar, Paul was “*dragged*” from the temple by those determined to kill him (Acts 21:30). I am sure Peter was using great might to draw the abundant catch to shore; and angry men were no doubt very forceful in dragging Paul away. This drawing power must have a strong pull.

We know “who” draws us: The Father. We assume the drawing power is forceful. But “what”

is this strong drawing power, and “how” is it manifested?

The drawing power is manifested through teaching for Jesus explains: “*It is written in the prophets, ‘and they shall all be taught of God.’ Everyone that hath heard from the Father, and hath learned, cometh unto me*” (John 6:45). Some believe the forceful drawing power is manifested through the direct operation of the Holy Spirit upon the heart pulling us miraculously toward Jesus. But Jesus says it is through teaching, hearing and learning.

Drawing us through the teaching concerning God’s love is one characteristic of this divine pull upon our minds. The Holy Spirit is involved in spreading the love of God in our hearts through teaching: “*For while we were yet weak, in due season Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: for peradventure for the good man someone would even dare to die. But God commendeth His own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*” (Romans 5:6-10).

What love to hear about through teaching! We were neither righteous nor good. But

while we were helpless sinners, living ungodly lives, we learn that Jesus died for us to save us from God’ judicial and righteous wrath. Learning of this love, we are drawn strongly by the Father to Jesus for salvation.

The teaching that Jesus is the Son of God sent from heaven by the Father draws us. Not knowing this fact about Jesus, some said, “*Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How doth he now say, I am come down out of Heaven?*” (John 6:42). The miraculous feeding of the 5,000 should have clearly established that Jesus was from God, but some were not learning from the miraculous sign (cf. John 6:26).

The signs were written so we through the revealed teaching could hear, learn and believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and have life in his name (John 20:30-31, John 6:47-51).

Miraculous confirmation of Jesus’ teaching draws us strongly to Him. Jesus’ self-sacrificing love so we can be saved from God’s wrath forcefully draws us to Him. These are powerful drawing points. Are you hearing and learning?