

How Do You Come to Jesus?

1) You Cannot 2) You Must Be Drawn 3) You Eat the Bread of Life

- Ever hrd anyone: we need have CTJ mmnt; or, they really had CTJ mmnt? Ever hrd anyone talk that way? That phrase, CTJ mmnt, has become poplr/seclr catchphrs; ppl who use it really aren't thinking re J at all. Phrase CTJ mmnt bascly means: wakeup call, intrvntn; when you suddenly realize on wrong path, need stop. So in business wrld, boss may call employee into office, say, we need have CTJ mmnt re your poor permfnc. It's: wakeup call, intrvntn. They call it CTJ mmnt when: grp/guys tells alchlc buddy stop drinking or else lose job & marg; prnts tell child if keep up this reblls behvr not going be allwd in house; grp/girls tells good frnd she's dating really bad guy, gotta brk up. It's: wakeup call; that's how society uses phrase CTJ mmnt. Now, I actly don't like phrase and don't think we shld use it – for 2 reasons: 1) pretty irreverent, sacrilegious even; mocks our dear Sav; 2) J has lot say re actly coming to him. Listen here: **vs. 35b; 37; 44a; 45b**. Obsvs: J really wants us come him; here tchs us how come him. So today, as cont w/part 2 BOL discsrs, we have ask: how come J? 3 answr/qstn; have keep right order. How come J?
- #1, can't. Cannot come J! No one can! If surprises you, listen again: **vs. 43-44a** – not anyone, even most pious prsn you know! **Vs. 44a**. Well, why not, we ask? Bec sinful nature; bec sinful condtn we born into. **“Surely sinful brth...concvd me” (Ps 51:5)**. This: unvrsl truth; applies all ppl (other than J). We come into wrld w/orgnl sin, which makes us by nature 100% unable come J; there's a sprtn btwn us. Think like this: in trck/fld there are jumping evnts. Some ppl can jmp few ft; others quite bit furthr; traind olympe athlts, if get running strt, can jmp pretcly acrss strt. But tell me this: who can jmp acrss Gr Cnyn? MS Rvr? Fox Rvr?! No one. Impssbl; can't be done; just a fact. And it's just as matter-of-factly that J: **vs. 44a**. Our Luth Cat says exactly same thng. Say these wrds w/me in mind if know them; I think many you do: *“I bel that I cannot...or come to him.”* 3rd Art, expltn. Or how about 2nd rdng, 1 Cor 2: **“Prsn w/o Sprt does not acctp thngs that come fr Sprt/God but consdrns foolshnss, and cannot undrstnd them” (14)**. So when ask how come J, 1st thng have realize: bec of sinful nature, on own, we cannot!
- Hwvr, J goes on say: **vs. 44ab**. How come J? Must be drwn. What you drwn to? To be drwn to smthng: curious, intrstd, attrctd to smtng/smone captrs your attn; pulled – what means be drwn. Boy drwn to girl crush on. Girl drwn to fav sport. We drwn to: certain hobbies, good book, fav vaca getaway. John Muir, Amrcn envrnmtntlst, oftn calld “Fr Ntnl Prks”, famsly wrote, *“Mnts calling, and I must go.”* He: drwn.
- J: **vs. 44ab**. God dsn't force you at gunpnt to bel; dsn't thrt you w/knife to thrt to trust/love him. Draws, invites, beckons, wins you over, woos. It's kinda like 2 ppl falling in love: there's chmstry btwn them, or might say magntc attrctn that pulls them tog. That's how God draws us. When Lord opens hrt, tells/shows loves you, he's drawing you! When you see J coming to you – stop, think all ways!; comes to you: as little baby born Bthlhm, hold in arms, embrace his love; in your wtr, joins you in your bap, wshs you clean/sin; in Word, in prbl, prchnng, tchnng so you can undrstnd mind/love/God; on cross, takes your place on wood, that's where you/I shld've been; outside tomb, when you're all distrght/crying, calls you by name, Mary, Kirk, (insert); in upper rm, peace be w/you, look hnds, touch side, really me, I'm alive/risen; in sacrmnt, take eat/drnk, really me, I forgive/love you – look at all these ways J comes to you! – by way, here: **vs. 38a; 50a; 51a** – J comes you to draw you to him. “Come me:” J. That's: chmstry/Gos; magntc attrctn of God drawing you to himself. J: I have come to you so that you would come me.
- Again, recall words/Cat: *“I bel...or come him. But HS: called me by Gos.”* He calls you, draws, wins over to bel btfl Gos truth lays before you. Notice: this is wrk of Triune God, FSHS. Here, **vs. 44ab**; so Fr draws us. In 1 Cor, 2nd rdng: **“We spk...in wrds tght by the Sprt, explnng sprtl realities w/Sprt-tght wrds” (1:13)**; so HS draws us. And in Jn 12, J: **“And I, when I am lifted up fr the earth, will draw all ppl to myself” (32)**; so J draws us. The whole Trinity is at work drawing us to love/ bel in him.
- And all/this: God's will; what he wants, more than anthng else: for you love/bel in him. J: **vs. 38-39ab**. God's will: you saved. Reason God sent J; reason J came dwn fr hvn & came you: so you'd come him.
- But there's whole lot ppl that don't want come J. Even here: **vs. 36; 41a, 42a**. You can't come J, but can certly reject! These ppl reject J bec he's too common; grew up w/him, knew his prnts. Has J become too common for you? If you grew up in ch, if know all tchngs, then are you in dngr getting too comfrtbl w/

your Xianity, so that it loses its edge? I've heard it said: oppst/love: not hatred; indiffrc, when just stop caring, when what was so imp to you in past gradly loses its value/meaning. Is that hapnng you? Is your faith/Xp slipping into indiffrc bec you're so famlr w/J? Anthr: Sun, service, sermon, song. Maybe we need angel/hvn come dwn, smck us upside hd: "Look at what Xp did for you, how came to you!" When you say, 'Amen' or 'Our Fr in hvn' or 'On 3rd day rose again fr dead', say it like you mean it!" – bec there's nthng more imp/life Xp crcfd/risen fr dead! That: magntsm, chmstry that draws you to Lord.

- And when that haps, so many blessngs follow! When God draws you, fills you w/: 1) humility (God has done for me what I cld nvr do for self); 2) security (vs. 35; 37b; Jn 8: "**Whovr follows me: nvr walk in drkness**" [12]; Jn 10: "**I give [my shp] etrnal life, and they: nvr perish**" [28]; Rom 10: "**Anyone who bels in him: nvr be put shame**" [11]; Heb 13: "**Nvr will I leave you, nvr forsake**" [5]. That's a pwrfl wrd (nvr), and God doesn't use it lightly; but when he says nvr, that fills us w/security); 3) thankflnss (God has done evthng for me bec loves me!); 4) desire/longing to come to J, be w/him forever.
- So, how you do that? How come J? Way you come J: you eat BOL. Remem, this: part 2 of 3 of BOL discrs. J: explnng/expndng what means that he is true brd that comes dwn fr hvn to feed our hungry souls. It's a profnd metphr w/simp meaning: to come to J = eat BOL = hear/bel his Word! All mean same thing! Vs. 35. Coming to J & belvng in him: same thing as vs. 45b. So when you learn fr Fr, when hear/bel GW, you are: eating BOL, coming to J. Msg/BOL dscrs is pretty simple; J: come to me & eat my Word. Says same thing in 1st rdng, Prov 9: "**Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed**" (5). When you: come ch, come BC, listen carfly to rdngs & pay attn to sermon, read/devour GW & bel what says, then you are: eating BOL, coming to J!
- And this is what J wants for you, not only for this life, but also for etrnal life. You can't miss how J, 3x here, says: vs. 39; 40; 43. There's a day coming when you'll be dead/buried in your coffin/urn/grnd. And J will: raise you up; resurrect fr dead; put your body back tog; perfect/glorify it; and you'll live the etrnal life God has been preparing for you since before born. J: BOL, after all! Vs. 51b. And that is you; he's talking re you. J came to you so that you would come to him, eat him, live forever.
- The crwds who 1st heard these wrds cld've had what you might call CTJ mmnt. But didn't bec refused to bel. How do you come J? On own, can't. But Trinue God has drwn/wooded/bright you to faith/Xp, so that now your only desire: come J & eat BOL. Next Sun, J wraps up BOL dscrs; and Pt exclms: "**You have wrds etrnal life**" (68). Today J invites you: eat those wrds, come to J, bel in him, and life forever.

John 6:35-51

³⁵Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

⁴¹At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴²They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

⁴³"Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. ⁴⁴"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. ⁴⁶No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. ⁵⁰But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."