

“Christ’s Assurance to Us” // John 6:37 // 7.05.20

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Good morning Christ Community! Isn't it awesome to be together, thanks so much to the volunteers and staff who made this possible. As mentioned, Jeff had a surgery on Thursday and was hopeful he could be here today but is in too much pain. Keep him in prayer if you would.

If you have a Bible, open up to the book of John. I know we have been studying diligently in 1 Peter, but with the circumstances and the timing of when Jeff asked, I wanted to preach on a verse that has been helpful and encouraging to me during these trying times. Yes, just one verse. I realize anytime there is food immediately following a service one needs us the time wisely and I will seek to do just that.

So John chapter 6 is where we will be today. I've entitled the message this morning, Christ's assurance to us. What does Jesus Christ assure us of in the pages of Scripture? Well many things for sure. His love and care for us. His desire to know and be with us. His assurance that his blood cleanses us from our sins. Even his assurance at his one day return and final judgment. And the list goes on. He assures us of many things. But he also assures us of something else; something that has been immensely encouraging to me in moments of despair, in moments of not measuring up, in those times where I feel forgotten by God, or even that my sin has somehow distanced me from him. It's in those moments that I remember this verse.

John 6:37, “Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never cast out.”

Let me pray for us.

These have been tiring times for all of us. Epidemics, injustices, riots, misunderstandings. It weighs on the soul. There is so much in this single verse that helps the weary Christian feel encouraged and consoled. So much that affirms to us of the assurance that we have in Jesus Christ. There are three statements this morning that I want us to look at in order to get a picture of this assurance. This is by no means exhaustive, in fact I would encourage you to meditate on this very verse over this next week and allow God through His spirit to apply it to your own heart.

Three statements we will look at.

1. Everyone 2. The Father Gives 3. I will never cast out

1. Everyone

Jesus in this verse puts to rest any notion that our salvation is only dependent upon us. In chapter 6, the crowd is wanting to be fed again. He has fed the 5000 early on, and now some of the crowd seeks to find him again to be fed once more. Jesus admonishes them, don't just seek that which is temporal, but seek that which is eternal. That which matters forever. And then they ask him for another sign. And Jesus, as this passage works its way down to verse 37, that even if I give you all of these signs, it still doesn't mean you will believe. V. 36, "but as I have told you, you've seen me and you still don't believe."

They have seen Jesus! The very Son of God, yet they don't believe. Their hearts are hardened. And it's in the midst of this discussion that Jesus says, even in light of rampant unbelief, "everyone the father gives me, comes to me."

He says, everyone. That's the word I want us to think on for a moment. Some translations use the word, "all." They are meaning the same thing here. He doesn't say "some," or "most," but all. Everyone. It's not most of those the father gives will come, its not "some" of those the father gives will come, but every single one. All. If you're a Christian here today, you are a part of that "all." You have been given by the Father and you have come to Christ. Two things that work together in an amazing way. Him giving us to Jesus, and us coming to Him.

And this everyone implies that you are known. You cannot be counted amongst a number unless you are known. You cannot be included as a gift from the Father to the Son unless you are known. You, individually, as a person, known by the infinite God of the universe! You matter. Your life matters. And what you do with your life now that you know Christ matters. You are identified, counted, bought, redeemed, and known.

Once the father sets his loving gaze on a wandering sinner, that sinner's rescue is certain. Everyone the text says.

You are a part of the family of God now. You have been counted among them. This word now describes you. May that encourage your heart this morning.

2. The Father Gives

But what is so special about this group (this everyone, this all). The father has given you to the Son. You are a prized possession, a gift of such great value that the Father would send his Son to die for you. Even the next verse, v. 38, Jesus says he has come only to do the will of his Father. And what was that will? To rescue and redeem a chosen people. His people. That's us.

So our redemption is not to just be seen as Jesus trying to calm down an angry God the Father. It's not Jesus being gracious and God being judgmental. In the triune Godhead, they have in their single unity, loved sinners so much that they have planned, purposed, and accomplished their salvation. It's the Sunday school verse many of us memorized from John 3:16, "For God so loved" that he gave the Son to us, and the same is true here, for God so loved us that he gave us to the Son.

The Father has graciously given you to Jesus, SO THAT, we might be reconciled to Him and know him and enjoy him forevermore. He gives us to his son. There was not a haggling over you that took place. There was not a reluctance for us to be given. The fathers deepest delight is to freely entrust us to the care of Jesus.

When I give a gift to my wife Laura, there are multiple things running through my head. Will she actually like it? Will she enjoy it? Is it something she wanted or needed? Will I get in trouble for how much I spent? (Kind of kidding here, but my wife is cheap, in the best way possible). But all of these thoughts are running through my head concerning the gift and concerning who I am giving it to. But it is not so with our God. He knows the gift is perfect for whom he is giving it to. There is no doubt, no second guessing, no questioning. Everyone the father gives will come.

And as we meditate on this passage further we uncover something that each of us knows to be true. A prized gift is only given to someone deeply loved, deeply cared for. We might give nice jewelry to a spouse, a keepsake passed down through the family to a son or daughter, or even a bible given to a close friend. In any situation, the one receiving the gift *is always deemed worthy to possess the gift*. Remember that. (repeat) Now who does the Father give us to? In his infinite love and care for us who does he entrust us to? His son! Jesus Christ, our saviour and redeemer. The Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. The pursuing shepherd who leaves the 99 to go after the one, who goes after you. The protective shepherd who watches over us and

guards us and defends us and defends you. We as a prized possession are given to someone who is infinitely worthy to care for us, and he does. How do we know this? Point number 3, because he will never cast us out. This is the proof of his care for us.

3. I Will Never Cast Out

Those whom the Father gives to Jesus will never be cast out. We are his. Jesus says in ch. 10 that no one can snatch us out of his hand. No one can take us, and He will never throw us out. Isn't that refreshing to hear? Encouraging to hear? In a world that is so prone to using things up and people up and then casting them aside, we belong to Jesus Christ, and he tells us that he will never do that. His word is binding, what he speaks is true. We are his, to use much of the biblical imagery, we have been given, purchased, redeemed, bought, and saved. This expression in the Greek actually would read as a double negative in English, "I will not - not- cast you out." It's a Greek emphatic. He's saying it will NOT happen. There is no way. We belong to him now.

But isn't there always something in the back of our minds and hearts that questions this about Jesus? Will he really never cast me out? It's the sin that we still struggle with. While sin no longer reigns in our lives it does REMain. And so we need to be reminded of Christ's care and love for us, we need to remember the assurances and promises that he gives to us. I will never cast you out. Jesus had to say this truth because he knows that we are fearful of being cast out. We are fearful of doing something that will separate us from that love he gives. Even when we proclaim the Gospel to unbelievers what do they say? "Well if you only know what I have done... there is no way Jesus could forgive me... I'm way too much of a sinner..."

But Jesus says those who come to him, he will never cast out. "We do not come to a set of doctrines. We do not come to just a church. We do not even come to the Gospel. All of these are vital, essential even. But most truly, we come to a person, Jesus Christ himself." And when we come, he says that he will never cast us out. All objections are suddenly lost. They are cut. There is nothing more we can say.

John Bunyan wrote an entire book, like most Puritans, on this single verse. In it he illustrates this truth.

"And here it is, the sum of all promises; neither can any objection be made upon the unworthiness you find in yourself."

But I am a great sinner, you say. "I will never cast you out," says Christ.

But I am an old sinner, you say. "I will never cast you out," says Christ.

But I am a hard-hearted sinner, you say. "I will never cast you out," says Christ.

But I am a back-sliding sinner, you say. "I will never cast you out," says Christ.

But I have served Satan all my days, you say. "I will never cast you out," says Christ.

But I have sinned against the light, you say. "I will never cast you out," says Christ. But I have no good thing to bring with me, you say. "I will never cast you out," says Christ.

But I feel that I'm failing as a father, you say. "I will never cast you out," says Christ. But I can't measure up to other mothers, you say. "I will never cast you out," says Christ.

Bunyan concludes, "This promise was provided to answer all objections." I will in no way, never cast you out.

We need to be reminded of that truth this morning because we are prone, even as God's people, to still make excuses as to why God is upset with us, or mad at us or doesn't love us, or doesn't care for us, or doesn't hear our prayers, or can't provide for us, can't relate with us. But this single promise remains, I will never cast you out. If any of those other things were true he WOULD cast us out, but he tells us he will never. ((adapted from scholar Dane Ortlund))

"No wait" - we say, as we cautiously approach Jesus, "You don't understand, I have really messed up. Bad. In all different ways."

I know, he responds.

"You know most of it, sure. And there is a lot more than what others can see. But deep down inside me there is perversity, it's hidden from everyone. I have some really bad thoughts."

I know it all, Christ says.

"Well - the thing is, it isn't just what I did in the past. I still struggle with things today in the present. I'm not perfect."

I understand, he says, *I'm not asking you to be*.

"But I don't know if I can break free from this anytime soon. I'm struggling each and every day."

Well that's the kind of person I came to help.

"The burden is heavy - and heavier all the time. I feel so alone."

Then let me carry it, says Jesus, *I'll walk with you*.

"It's too much to bear, though."

Not for me.

You don't get it, Jesus. My offenses aren't directed towards others, they're against you!

Then I am the one most suited to forgive them.

"But the more you get to know me, the more of this ugliness in me you discover, the sooner you'll get fed up with me."

Whoever comes to me, I will never cast out.

For those who don't know Jesus this morning, what is your excuse for not coming? What is your reasoning? He is immensely more gracious than you could ever think. His very heart is for you. You've suffered betrayal and rejection, and carried the weight of your sin far too long. We serve a saviour who promises to never do that. In fact he was betrayed and rejected by men, he took our sins and carried them to the cross, and he offers you a new life this morning. Would you confess your sins to God, and believe that Jesus is enough? You don't have to be perfect, because he is. You don't have to be anything or do anything but come to him in faith. So would you believe?

And for the saints here this morning, for my brothers and sisters in Christ, remind yourself often of God's love and care for you, especially during these times. That you are known, and counted amongst God's family. That you are a precious gift that has been given to Jesus Christ and that he promises to never cast you out. *Our own resolve is not part of the formula in retaining Christ's good will towards us.*

Last week we were able to, as a family, go to a lake for a couple of days. My little girl Blakely always wants to hold daddy's hand as we walk into the water. Eventually, it starts to get deeper and the tide gets a little heavier. She holds on tight during these moments to my hand but a three-year olds grip is not very strong. Before long it is me holding onto her. Left to her own strength she would certainly slip out of my hand. But if I have determined that she will not fall out of my grasp, then she is secure. There is no way I am losing her.

So it is with Jesus. We cling to him for sure, we have a responsibility to come. But our grip is that of a three year old during the stormy waves of life. His sure grasp never falters. Cling to him as he holds you firmly.

Let's pray.