

**John 6: 45-48; “They Shall All Be Taught”, Sermon # 42 in the series –  
“That All May Honor the Son”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall,  
on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, in the Morning Worship Service.**

As we have come down through this pivotal passage in the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus, we must continue to remember that all of these words which He was speaking were coming from His having fed the five thousand miraculously with five loaves and two fishes. It was this mighty miracle which led to many Jews following Jesus around the countryside; not necessarily for the teaching which He could give them about eternal life, but rather because they had eaten of the loaves and were filled. They were following Jesus for purely selfish reasons. We need to understand that the vast majority of them did not understand what it meant to know the Lord. They were following Jesus, but they were not following Him for the right reasons. They were not following Him to obtain the spiritual life and nourishment which He alone could give to them. They were simply impressed with His ability to supply their physical needs. And so Jesus says to them in verse 27 – “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but the food which endures to everlasting life, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” Now, we must ask ourselves this question: Why did these people not spiritually understand? Why is it that they were they not partaking of spiritual things, even though they were physically following Jesus to see what He would do? It is the same reason that some people come to church in our own day, and yet they are not saved people.

The reason is, that people will not really come to saving faith in Christ until they have been spiritually taught by God Himself. Verse 45 says – “It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’” The “all” there means all those who come to Christ; all of them have to be taught of God. And so, I would like to set before you this most important truth, both negatively and positively: Unless you are taught by God, you will not come to Christ savingly. And if you are taught by God, you most certainly will come to Christ savingly. And having been taught, you will follow Christ, and persevere to the end of your life following Christ. And so, the all-important question that we must then ask ourselves is this – What does it mean to be “taught by God”? According to our Lord Jesus it means these following things. 1<sup>st</sup> of all – To be taught of God means that you have personally come to hear and learn from the Father. (verses 45 and 46) 2<sup>nd</sup> – It means that you have personally come to believe in Jesus as the bread of life, and you feed on His covenant faithfulness. (verses 47 and 48) Let us pray that the Lord will open our eyes to behold these wonderful things from His law and the prophets which speak to us so fully concerning our great salvation.

**1<sup>st</sup> of all – To be taught of God means that you have personally come to hear and learn from the Father.**

“It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’” “Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.” Let me also remind you of the verse just before this one; verse 44 – “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.” I want you to see this connection, between verse 44 and verse 45; that the teaching of the Father and the Holy Spirit is an integral part of the spiritual drawing of the of a sinner to Christ. It is the Father who, in accordance with the Spirit’s working, causes an elect sinner to see their ruined condition, and their guilty state before God. It is He who has purposed and planned the providential ordering of events, which will show the sinner the emptiness and meaninglessness of their life apart from Christ. And therefore it is God, who according to His holy and wise purposes, who enables them in their mind and heart, to turn to behold the glory of Christ as the only One who can save them. The drawing of the Father and the teaching of the Father go hand in hand.

Our Bibles speak to us of a most definite salvation from our sins, one which requires that the power of the Lord be exerted toward you, in a way which illumines your mind to the truth, takes away your hostility to your being told that you need to be saved, and renews your will to be able to turn away from sin and turn to God. God most definitely puts forth His power when He effectually calls any sinner to Himself, because He knows that their ears must be spiritually opened to hear, before they will want to listen to gospel of Christ being presented. If the Father is calling you, His work of drawing you is done in such a way that you will receive the word of God as a word of authority. Because of God's teaching you, you will submit to the truth of His word. The Holy Spirit in conjunction with the Father's working, brings conviction of sin, and regenerating life to the persons whom the Father will effectually call to Himself.

Turn with me over to Isaiah 29, verse 17 and we shall see a beautiful illustration of this. "Is it not yet a very little while till Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be esteemed as a forest? In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness." "The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel." Here we see a prophecy of New Testament times and what the grace of God will do for Lebanon; that is, the barren mountain of what Lebanon represents; that is, the Gentiles who would be turned into a fruitful field, when Peter and Paul and the other apostles preached the gospel to them. The gospel has been received and believed primarily by the Gentiles, all down through this Church age since 70 A.D. and the destruction of Jerusalem. We come to understand, if we study the history of the Church, that the previously fruitful field of the Jewish nation would be esteemed as a forest. In other words, they would not know, as a nation or as an ethnic people, in general, the powerful working of the Lord in their midst, as they had once experienced it in times past, because of their sin in rejecting Christ as a people putting Him to death, and persecuting His people.

But during this particular time of the Church age, which is called here, "the times of the Gentiles" in Luke 21: 24, the deaf shall hear the words of the book; that is the truth of the Scriptures, and by the purpose of God the Father, and by the great working of the Spirit, many people's spiritual ears would be opened to believe in the gospel and be saved. Now let's bring this down to our personal level. Let me ask you whether your ears have been opened, to hear and to respond to the gospel. In Acts 16: 14 it says that there was a certain woman named Lydia who heard Paul and Silas preach at a prayer meeting which she had attended on a Sabbath Day, or "on a certain day", down by the riverside. And it says that she was a person who worshiped God, but she did not as yet know God. But "the Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken to her by Paul." Let me ask you whether your ears have been spiritually opened, and has your heart been taught by the Lord to heed the truth that you are a sinner and that you must have Christ to save you? You may be religious, but are you saved? Have you come to know these things experientially in your own heart?

Jesus says, "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.'" So let me turn you to our first place in the Old Testament Scriptures where God's spiritual and internal teaching of sinners is mentioned in this same way that Jesus is talking about. The first place is found in Isaiah 54, verse 11. "O you afflicted one, tossed with tempest, and not comforted." "Behold, I will lay your stones with colorful gems, and lay your foundations with sapphires." "I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of crystal, and all your walls of precious stones." "All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children." It is the Church of Jesus Christ who is being spoken of here; afflicted and storm-tossed on the tempest of life; down through the generations persecuted and mistreated because of preaching the truth that every person must repent of their sins and believe in Jesus Christ.

All those who come to Christ, come to Him, first of all, to deal with the guilt and shame of their sins. They must be all be taught by the Father about the deceitfulness of their own heart. And so, as time goes by, we who are Christians also grow to learn what we are needing to be taught, by the

Lord; that is, that He has a good and righteous way for us to live. It says in verse 46 – “No one has seen the Father except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.” You have not seen the Father, but if you are a true Christian you have come to know that He is holy and that it is your solemn duty to live to God, and not to yourself. Where did you learn this from? You learned this from God Himself. You are told in the Bible about the Father, and why He gave His only-begotten Son. It was out of love for you, the fallen sinner. But you also have this truth confirmed for you in your heart. And there is a sure realization given to you, as you read the word, that this word is faithful and it is true. There has been a real impartation of the conviction that God is speaking to you in the Scriptures and confirming that truth by His Spirit, bringing you to the realization of what is most important.

This is what you, the Christian, most certainly will be most concerned with; learning to do what the Father is showing you to do; that is, to trust in Christ for righteousness, and trusting also in the Father to show you what true holiness is really like. The Father points you to the 10 commandments of His holy law, and then He points you to Jesus. You know the 10 commandments, but let me ask you: Do you go about to keep the 1<sup>st</sup> and greatest commandment that you should love God with all of your heart? Do you go about to keep that commandment because of His having given you salvation in Christ? Let me ask you whether you as a Christian are praying the prayer of the Psalmist David – “Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths, lead me in Your truth and teach me; for You are the God of my salvation, and on You I wait all the day,” it says in Psalm 25: 4 and 5.

There are some who profess to be Christians, and yet, by their deeds they deny Him. They are not waiting upon Him. They are waiting for a word from the world; what are the most exciting earthly things that they can do in this life. And then there are others who come to know that they are Christians, because they are willing to wait upon the Lord, and to pray that God would show them His ways, and teach them His paths. This is how you will know that you are a true Christian; if you have been taught by God Himself, by means of His grace. He has opened your mind to the truth to submit to His holy word in the Bible and has directed your mind by His Spirit, to learn to live by it. As a true Christian you consider this your honor and your joy. And you come to see, through the Father’s powerful teaching, the vanity of living your life with worldly friends, and so you purposely study to develop new friendships with people who are concerned with this same lofty goal; the goal which you are called to, of following the Lord fully according to His word.

A true Christian considers this a matter of joyful expectation and excitement, to follow Christ and be taught by God. Of course, they will try to win their old set of friends to this new way of holiness, but you will not be surprised, will you, if your old friends do not come and join with you in the pursuit of holiness? What should you be pursuing? Hebrews 12: 14 says: “Pursue peace with all men and the holiness without which no man shall see the Lord, looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God, lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many be defiled.” Has God drawn you to this place where you see the awfulness of your sins as a believer? Christ died for your sins as a believer, just as much as He died for your sins before you came to Him for grace. You may not have known it, but the Father is the One who is teaching you to see the deceitfulness of your flesh; the indwelling remaining corruption of your heart. He is the One, who is experientially teaching you, how much sin can ruin your life as Christian, so that you do not bear much fruit for God because of your worldliness.

Now, it is true that if you are a true Christian you will bear some fruit to God; some 30, some 60, some one hundred-fold, we are told in the parable of the sower. But you cannot be a Christian and not bear any fruit to God. The key to having full assurance is your glorying in the fact that He is showing you how much you have needed to be taught by Him; these powerful lessons that will lead to you to holiness, and away from worldliness. You do not simply receive that preaching of the word as intellectual truths providing you with information, so that you think that you are very smart because you know these truths. In these words that are being preached to you it will be God

Himself who will be showing you the practical realities of the way that a true Christian will live by grace. The reality of your being taught by God will not lead to boredom and continual frustration and sadness in not finding meaning in your life. The reason that this is true, is because you now believe in God's promise here, in these verses in Isaiah 54: 11. He will indeed lay your stones with colorful gems. He will indeed take the hard and difficult things that you go through as a believer, and He will lay them with colorful gems. He will build something very beautiful with your life as you submit to Him. And great will be your peace, as one of God's children.

Ask yourself whether you as a Christian have peace ruling in your heart, in all of your circumstances? Or are you troubled because you think that God is not doing you good in the way which you think that He ought to be doing it for you? Perhaps you do not understand His way of doing things. But you should know, it will be His purpose and His delight to show you personally, how He will bring good out of what you consider to be evil and hard. He will indeed cause all things to work together for good, for those who love Him; for those who are called according to His purpose. The real question is: Do you have ears to hear? Do you have a heart to learn God's good ways?

**Now 2<sup>nd</sup> – Being taught of God means that you have personally come to believe in Jesus as the bread of life, and you are feeding on His covenant faithfulness.**

(verses 47 and 48)

The Lord Jesus says: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life." "I am the bread of life." This is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in this discourse that Jesus has said, "I am the bread of life". And so, we should believe that He considers it a most important statement, both for believers and unbelievers. To feed upon Christ as the bread of life is a matter of your partaking by faith, of the covenant faithfulness of your God, in His supplying you with all the blessings of grace, in His giving you Christ. In His giving you Christ, He is giving to you spiritual bread; all the spiritual food of truth that you will need to be saved, and all that imparted grace that you will need, to live to do God's will. All of this is found in Christ. He is the bread of life for your daily spiritual strengthening and sustaining of your soul. The Father gives you this bread of life, so that you will neither hunger nor thirst, spiritually speaking. In giving you Christ, when you believe in Him He is giving you the full assurance of the outcome of your life; that you will persevere in faith, based upon His work, and not considering it your work to earn it or to merit it.

You will not look to the philosophies of the free thinkers of this world (the atheists or agnostics, or those false teachers who propagate the false religions of the world). If you are wise, you will not look to them for the meaning of life. You will not feed upon their poisonous writings as having anything that you can learn from them. In thinking about full assurance of salvation you will not look to yourself and the strength of your own free will to get you there to heaven. Rather God Himself will be guarding you. He will protect your soul. He Himself will be guiding you into the green pastures of the absolute truth of His word, because He Himself is teaching you to abide in Christ. He makes you to lie down in the green pastures of His word. But when you feed upon God's word, you are learning to exercise faith in Christ, because you are resting your soul upon God's promises in Christ, and you will, having been strengthened by this bread, attempt to be faithful to obey Him. And, as you go about to obey Him, He will, according to His faithfulness to His promise, most surely be satisfying you with all the blessings of grace and truth that you will need, each and every day. If you look to yourself at all, it will be to see whether you really have Christ; whether you really know the reality of His grace at work in your heart. If you do not sense His presence and grace, you learn to cry out to God for it.

I want to show you more of this glorious reality of God the Father's New Covenant faithfulness in this regard. So if you will turn with me over to Jeremiah chapter 31, verses 31-37, you will rejoice with me at all that He has given to us, His elect people. "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah – not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand

to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord.” “But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be My people.” “Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon by night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (the Lord of hosts is His name): If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the Lord, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.” “Thus says the Lord: ‘If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, says the Lord.’”

Whenever we think of the New Covenant we ought to first of all think of it in terms of God’s love and His faithfulness to nation of Israel; those whom He called; beginning with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and His having first fulfilled His promises to them, in terms of all that He would give to them in His Son, who would come in the fullness of time, as one of their descendants. As a Husband He was perfectly faithful to them. He says here, that He intended to make a New Covenant with their descendants; those to whom He had given His holy law to, on Mt. Sinai. The law which He gave to them there on Mt. Sinai was the Old Covenant. That covenant was given to them as a people; not in order that they might be saved by it; by their trying to keep all of its laws and precepts. But it was given to teach them about the perfections of obedience which God requires of all men. In giving them His holy law He wanted to show them the standard of His holiness. He wanted to show them the perfections of Christ His Son in typical form, and what a perfect Man would be like. But because no sinful man who has descended from Adam could possibly keep this holy law, we find also, that by this the law came the knowledge of sin. And by this law also came the dreadful realization that the man who did not continue in all things which were written in it, to do them, he was under a curse.

This is why God the Father sent His only begotten Son, to fulfill this law on behalf of all sinners who would trust in Him. The law which was given at Mt. Sinai was a reiteration of the law which was written on Adam’s heart in the beginning of the world when he was given the covenant of works in the garden of Eden. Adam could have continued his own righteous life; he could have saved all of his descendants from wrath and hell if he could have confirmed himself in the keeping of the one good commandment of God; that, – “Of all the trees in the garden you may eat, but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” (Genesis 2: 16, 17) God left Adam to himself and his own free will, to test him and prove to him, that even though he was placed in a perfect position to keep himself from sin, his own wisdom and strength would fail him. And so, he plunged our race into sin and misery. This is why there was this great need for a New Covenant. God did not intend for man to be able to save himself, apart from the grace of His Son. But he also knew of the weakness and the sinfulness of man’s heart, and so He proved to all men, through His own people the Jews, that no man could keep His law. We all sin and fall short of the glory of God.

But in this New Covenant which He would enact through His Son, He would have His own beloved perfect Son fulfill the law of righteousness for everyone who would believe in Him. He would have Him suffer the just punishment for the sins of all of His elect people; both Jew and Gentile. He would set Him forth as a propitiation for our sins; a wrath-removing sacrifice. Jesus would become the bread of life for all of His people on the cross. When He said in the upper room, on that night in which He was betrayed – “This is my body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me”, He was showing forth the fact that He was the bread of life which every person who would be saved, and every person who would desire to walk uprightly before God, would need to partake of. It is because of what Christ has done in this New Covenant, that it is said: “No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord, for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord.’”

“For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more. Glory be to God that this is so – Not only forgiveness, but God choosing not to remember my sins any longer.

And what is more – God, in the New Covenant promises to write His law on the hearts of all His people, and thus He says to us, and teaches us, that “He will be our God, and we shall be His people”. This is the basis for each believer being taught by God; it is this writing of God’s law on their heart in the New Birth. But you will say to me – These promises were given to the Jews, to Israel of old, and not to me a Gentile. What more do I have to do with the law of God, now that I have believed in Jesus? I answer: It is true that these promises were given to Israel, but I want you to see that when Christ came, and fulfilled the law, that the barrier was broken down between Jew and Gentile, and those who are chosen and called are one new man, one new people, one new nation of elect people, from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. Together we are the Israel of God; because we Gentiles have become a part of the commonwealth of spiritual Israel. We who were afar off have been brought near through the blood of Christ. He Himself is our peace, who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of separation.

Does this mean then that God has cast off his ancient people the Jews, since 70 A.D. and the destruction of Jerusalem? No, beloved. The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable. The Jews continue on as God’s ancient people; largely in a state of spiritual desolation. But there are promises which were given to them, right here in Jeremiah 31. As the Lord has given the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night; if these ordinances depart from before Me, says the Lord, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.” Do these words mean what they say? They surely do. And they are confirmed for us in Romans chapter 11, verse 1, where the apostle Paul says: “I say then, has God cast away His people?” “Certainly not!” “God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.” “Even so, then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.”

Verse 11 – I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall?” (He is speaking of them as a people and as a nation before God. “Certainly not!” “But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.” “Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!” This fullness is talking about their national conversion someday in the future when they will be grafted back into their own olive tree, as it says in verse 23. “And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.” What will the Jews be grafted into, on the day of their conversion to Christ? They will be grafted in to their own olive tree, the Church of Jesus Christ; founded on the apostles and prophets, who were Jewish, and then saved. They will be converted as a nation, as it says in verses 25 and 26. “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.” “And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”

Today, we have been talking about being taught by the Father. All who will come to Christ will be taught of the Father. We can go further and say that when nations will come to Christ in the time of the latter-day glory of the Church, they will need to be taught as well. But God is well able to teach them. How can all of this tremendous prophecy come to pass, that we have been talking about? It will come to pass because Jesus is the bread of life, and the Father is the One who will feed them and teach them, His elect people. The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.” There is a bad leaven which is spoken of in the Scriptures as being a picture of sin. And then there is the good leaven which is spoken of, in relation to the bread of life which Christ brings to us through His word, and the influences of His Holy Spirit. God’s teaching brings spiritual life, because it is effectual by His power.

For it says in Micah 4: 1 – “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it.” (He is speaking of Christ’s kingdom and His Church.) “Many nations shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ “For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” “He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” “But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”