

I Will Raise You Up

John 6:35-51

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 9, 2015

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Broadlands

Our Lord speak cosmically.

He came down out of heaven. That means that He existed separate from the creation. He created the creation. He existed separately from the creation. He entered the creation. He entered the creation when He was conceived. He came down from heaven.

The Father sent Him. The Father sent His Son. The Father is God. Since the Father is God and the Father sent the Son, the Father sent the Son from heaven. The Father sent the Son into the creation to do His will. So Jesus has come down from heaven to do the will of the Father.

This is the will of the Father that of those whom the Father gives to Jesus, Jesus will not drive them away.

There are those whom the Father has given to Jesus. Those whom the Father has given to Jesus come to Jesus. Once they come to Jesus, Jesus does not drive them away. This is the will of the Father.

Jesus did not come to do His own will. He came to do the will of the Father. That does not mean that the will of Jesus is to drive away those whom the Father gives to Him, but rather it means that the will of Jesus is irrelevant. Only the will of the Father matters.

Now we confess that Jesus is the equal to the Father, that Jesus is God in all respects equal to the Father. And yet even still Jesus came not to do His own will, but to do the will of His Father. In spite of their equality the Son lays aside His own will in favor of the will of the Father. The reason that He does this is not just because the will of the Father is that He bring life to the world, but also because even with God a Son does the will of His Father.

Our Lord continues with the will of His Father. Remember the will of the Father is that whatever the Father gives to the Son, the Son will not drive them away. But that is not all. Not only will the Son not drive away whatever the Father gives to the Son, the Son will also not lose them. He will lose none of the ones that the Father gives to Him. He will raise them up on the Last Day.

Our Lord is talking about the resurrection of the dead on the Last Day. He is talking about their physical resurrection. The reason that He is talking about their physical resurrections is because everyone who comes to Jesus is already spiritually raised from the dead. The Father gives them to Jesus. Because the Father gives them to Jesus they come to Jesus. Because they come to Jesus they are spiritually raised from the dead. They live with Jesus. They are born again of water and of the Spirit.

Take Aubrey for example. According to Romans 6 she is already dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Formerly she was dead in her trespasses and sins according to Ephesians 2. Now that she is alive to God and dead to sin, she is no longer dead in her trespasses and sins. If she is no longer dead in her trespasses and sins, but rather alive to God in Christ Jesus, then she has risen from the dead.

But today is not the Last Day. The will of the Father is that Jesus loses none of the ones that the Father gives to Him and that Jesus raises them up on the Last Day. Since our Lord is talking about the Last Day and since spiritual resurrections occur before the Last Day whenever someone becomes dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus, then our Lord has to be talking about a physical resurrection.

It is the will of the Father that Jesus lose none of the ones that the Father has given to Jesus. Jesus will not drive them away. He will lose none of them. He will raise them up on the Last Day. In other

words on the Last Day Jesus will physically raise the ones whom the Father has given to Him. He will raise their bodies from the dead.

When is the Last Day? The Last Day refers to the Last Day of the creation's current condition. Since Jesus made the creation in the beginning, He created it to last forever. God does not make short term creations that fall apart after a while. Also He created our bodies in the beginning. It stands written that He formed man from the dust of the earth. That means that He formed Adam's body from the dust of the earth. That being the case He made our bodies and indeed everything in the creation to last forever. We were not created to die.

We introduced death into the creation and upon ourselves. Once we introduced death into the creation the creation has been subject to death ever since. Death is the just consequences of our sins. That means that we die. The current state of the creation is that it has death in it. In fact death is so inextricably involved in the creation that it seems from human reason that the creation cannot function without it. But this is not how the creation is supposed to be.

The Last Day is the last day that the creation will exist in its current state. The Last Day is the last day that the creation will exist with death in it. After all, on the Last Day Jesus will raise up all whom the Father has given to Him. He will raise them physically. He will once again form them from the dust of the earth. He will once again breathe into them the breath of life and they will live. They will stand up on their feet a vast host. Sinews and flesh and skin will come upon them and they will be restored.

This is the will of the Father.

No one comes to the Son unless the Father draws him. How does the Father draw the One whom He gives to Jesus? The Father draws them when they are taught of God. It has been written in the prophets that all will be taught of God. Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him will come to Jesus. That is how the Father draws them. When you listen to the Father and He instructs you, you are taught of God. When you are taught of God you come to Jesus. He will not drive you away. He will not lose you. He will raise you up on the Last Day.

This is what makes Jesus superior to Moses.

At the command of God Moses fed the Israelites miraculously with manna for forty years in the wilderness. It is an amazing miracle. The critics are still finding natural explanations for what happened. The fact stands that it was a tremendous sign that God was with Moses and that everything Moses did was at God's command. However, as tremendous as that miracle was, the people who ate the manna died. The reason that Jesus is greater than Moses is because He is the One who raises the dead.

Because Jesus is the One who raises the dead, Jesus is the One who ultimately bestows life. Moses may have bestowed life for a while, for forty years in the wilderness with a specific group of people. Jesus raises the dead. He raises them on the Last Day. He raises all whom the Father gives to Him.

Jesus is the bread of life. If anyone eats of this bread, He will not die. Jesus came down out of heaven just like the manna came down out of heaven. Jesus came from the Father just like the manna came from the Father. But the manna was only a foretaste of the life to come. The life the Israelites received in the wilderness under Moses was only a shadow of the life that Jesus came down from heaven to give.

Anyone who believes in Jesus eats from Him. Anyone who eats from Him has eternal life. This is eternal life.

God the Father and His Son define eternal life as resurrection from the dead. Eternal life is not merely a soul that lives on after the body dies. If that were so, then God would be despising part of His

creation. Since God does not despise His creation, He redeems all of it. Since you were created body and soul, He redeems you body and soul.

The reason that I emphasize this point is that I have heard false teachers teach that the only part of you that is eternal is your soul. That is false. If that were true, then Jesus would not say repeatedly in John 6 that He will raise up all whom the Father gives Him on the Last Day. If eternal life consisted only of being a soul, then what does Jesus mean when He repeatedly says that He will raise those whom the Father has given to Him on the Last Day?

But God does not despise anything that He has made. He does not despise your bodies and neither should you. He created your body in the secret place of your mother's womb. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. He has instituted laws forbidding the harming of your body. The whole prolife movement in this country presupposes that the bodies of the unborn should be saved. God treats your body as holy. He forbids sexual immorality because He knows that would harm your body. He heals the sick and makes their bodies whole. He raises the dead and promises that all who learn from the Father and listen to Him will go to Jesus and Jesus will not drive them away. He will not cause them to perish. He will lose none of them. He will raise them up on the Last Day.

Your bodies were created to be eternal. He will raise them up on the Last Day. So when our Lord says that those who believe in Him will not hunger and those who believe in Him will not thirst, He is not referring to your souls. He is referring to the resurrection. At the resurrection Jesus will constitute your bodies such that they will not hunger again. They will not thirst again. You will not hunger or thirst because hungering and thirsting are drives so that you will eat and drink and not die. At the resurrection you will not die. You will not need to eat and to drink in order to stay alive. Therefore you will not hunger again. You will not thirst again. After the resurrection in eternity you will eat for the joy of eating. You will eat because it tastes good. You will drink for the joy of drinking. You will drink because it tastes good. All will be good. You will be good.

This is the bread that came down from heaven. He gives life to the world. He raises the dead. The bread which came down from heaven is the flesh of Jesus which He gave for the life of the world. And there is the irony.

When Jesus was conceived in the womb of the virgin Mary He became flesh. When the creator became flesh He also became mortal. Jesus did not sin yet His flesh was in the likeness of sinful flesh. That being the case as soon as our Lord was conceived He was subject to death. This why the Father sent the angel to Joseph in dreams to warn him about Herod's plot to kill Jesus. This is why Jesus Himself would on occasion avoid situations where His life was threatened. He had an appointed time according to the will of the Father when He would die.

When Jesus died He gave the flesh which He had become for the life of the world. He gave His flesh. He gave His flesh in fulfillment of all of the flesh that the Israelites offered in the Old Testament. God commanded the Israelites under Moses to offer the flesh of animals in order to atone for their sins. The Israelites did this and that was the practice up until our Lord fulfilled the sacrifices with His own.

Jesus is superior to Moses. Therefore the sacrifice that He offers is superior to the ones that Moses instituted. The sacrifices that God commanded through Moses were educational work to prepare Israel and the world for the great sacrifice that was coming. Through Moses God teaches us that the offering of flesh and of blood brings forgiveness of sins. Through the prophets God taught us that the animals were not near good enough to effect actual forgiveness. God was using them as types of the great sacrifice of Jesus to instruct us on what sacrifice was all about so that when Jesus does offer His flesh for the life of the world we understand what He is doing.

God does not give life unless your sins are forgiven. That means that when Jesus dies He gives you life. And so just as with the resurrection so also with His death the Lord does the will of the Father and brings forth life from death.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.