

John 6:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Analysis

'No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.' Human inability meets divine initiative. Coming to Christ requires the Father's drawing. 'Can' (dunatai) indicates ability, not permission—humanity cannot come unless drawn. This isn't mere invitation but effective attraction. Yet drawing doesn't force—those drawn come willingly because God changes their hearts.

Historical Context

This verse expresses the doctrine of effectual calling. God's drawing doesn't merely make salvation possible; it makes it actual. Augustine, Luther, and Calvin emphasized this verse against Pelagian views of human ability. The tension between divine sovereignty and human responsibility remains mystery, but both are affirmed.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that 'no man can come' unless the Father draws?
2. How do divine drawing and human responsibility relate in coming to Christ?

Interlinear Text

οὐδεὶς δύναται ἐλθεῖν πρός με ἐὰν μὴ τῇ πατὴρ
No man can come to me, except it be given unto him of my Father
G3762 G1410 G2064 G4314 G3165 G1437 G3361 which the Father
G3588 G3962

τῇ πέμψας με ἐλκύσῃ αὐτὸν καὶ ἐγὼ ἀναστήσω
which hath sent me draw him and I up
G3588 G3992 G3165 G1670 G846 G2532 G1473 G450

αὐτὸν τῇ ἐσχάτῃ ἡμέρᾳ
him which at the last day
G846 G3588 G2078 G2250

Additional Cross-References

John 6:65 (Parallel theme): And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

John 12:32 (Parallel theme): And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Matthew 16:17 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

John 6:45 (Parallel theme): It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Jeremiah 31:3 (Parallel theme): The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Hosea 11:4 (Parallel theme): I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.

Colossians 2:12 (Resurrection): Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Philippians 1:29 (Parallel theme): For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

John 5:44 (Parallel theme): How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?