**Scripture: Deut. 5:1-17 & John 6:25-51; 66-71**

**Singing: 226:1-3 – 110:1 – 304:1-3, 6-7 - 422:2 ,6 -- 233:2, 3, 6**

**Twofold Encouragement**

**Jesus encourages Himself and sinners**

**I. Jesus Encourages Himself**

A. What is the *context* of these heavenly words?

 1. Unbelief – hostility – rejection despite great evidences!

 2. How would the Lord Jesus as the Son of man feel about this?

 a. Isaiah 49:4 *Then I said, I have labored in vain, I have*

*spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God*

3. Jesus as man experienced human feelings: *Satan would have*

 *done his utmost to discourage the Savior (Matt. 27:39-43)*

B. How did the Savior Himself respond to this all?

 1. Encouraged Himself *in His Father’s will:* 37a, 39, 44, 45

a. All that the Father giveth shall come to Me!

 b. see similar example in Matt. 11:25

C. Jesus’ gives the example ***how*** *to use the doctrine of God’s sovereignty.*

 1. He encouraged Himself with it (1 Sam. 30:6)

 2. He labored even more to *seek to save sinners*: 37b

D. On personal level: *God’s sovereignty in salvation* in the sinner’s friend!

 1. God’s *sovereign grace* is the foundation of the Gospel

 a. no truth is to encourage us more to seek His grace

 than the truth that His grace is sovereign

**II. Jesus encourages sinners to come to Him**

A. Why to Him? Why are we to come to Him?

 1. Because He is the Only One that *deliver you/me from our misery*

 2. Jesus in all kinds of clear pictures teaches us WHO He is!

a. I am the Bread of life: *given by Father (!) to you* (32)

 b. I am the Door: *gives ONLY access to the Father’s pastures*

 c. I am the *Way – truth – Life:* give access to Father’s heart

B. How do we come to Him?

 1. As fruit of sovereign Father’s drawing (John 6:44-46): How?

a. Father draws by kindling desire in your heart after Jesus

 b. If in all your misery, Jesus has never been discovered, then

 you have no evidence that Father is drawing you! (vs. 53)

C. Am I then allowed to come?

 1. Must I not be one of His elect?

 2. Must I not first be better, humbler, more broken, more upright?

 3. Must I not first lay awake for nights – physically tremble as leaf?

 4. Must I not have true conviction of sin?

 5. Must I not *be so humbled that I must agree to be condemned?*

D. What is it than to *come to Him*?

 1. To come *is one of the many ways* HS describes *act of faith* (69)

 a. Spirit always describes faith by ‘action words’

 2. To come isn’t *physical* (John 6:66; Ezek. 33:31)

 a. it is a *spiritual coming of the heart/soul to Jesus*

Finally: But I am so afraid – so uncertain: *will He receive me?*

**Thoughts to Ponder**

In the wounds of Christ alone is predestination found and understood.

(M. Luther)

It is well to fall back every now and then upon the great truth of predestination. It should be couch for our refreshment in the work of the Gospel. (Spurgeon)

Let a man go to the grammar school of faith in Christ and repentance toward God because he goes to the university of election and predestination.

(G. Whitefield.