

to sin; he had the power to do wickedly, but he would not. Of Joseph's brethren it is said, Gen., xxxvii, 4 that "they hated him, and *could not* speak peaceably unto him." They had the *power or ability to speak peaceably to their younger brother*, but they *would not*; they hated him in their hearts; and when it is said they *could not*, the obvious meaning is, they *would not*. They were not friendly to him, they did not wish him well; they had a strong aversion toward him. In addressing the ungodly and unbelieving Pharisees, our Lord uttered the following strong language expressive of their wickedness. "O generation of vipers, *how can ye*, being evil, speak good things; for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Matt. xii, 34. It is evident at a glance that there is here no palliation of their crime, and no excuse given for their want of goodness, but on the contrary they are denounced by the Searcher of hearts in unmeasured terms for their strong aversion to Christ, and their inexcusable unbelief. But though all that we have just said is evident this does not appear to us to be the truth taught in the passage before us. When Our Lord says, "No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him, the language as we understand it, is expressive of an *impossibility*. Not only is it true that sinners *will not* come to Christ unless they are drawn by the Father, they *CANNOT COME* except the Father which hath sent Christ draw them. The part which the Divine Father has taken, and still takes, in the salvation of the soul is just as important and indispensable as the work of Christ himself.

We wish you, therefore, particularly, to notice, that no *sinner can come to Jesus unless the Father draw him*. But here a cluster of most important questions claims our attention. How does the Father draw? Whom does he seek to draw? Is the drawing physical and irresistible, or is it moral and resistible in its nature? The 45th verse shows very clearly that the drawing referred to is moral in kind and consequently can be resisted. "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." "*It is written.*" God's own written word was the instrument which he employed to draw men to his son. In the Old Testament Scriptures God revealed his character, his will, his promises, his plans, and his purposes of mercy. In, and through the prophets whom he inspired he made known his will, and directed the minds of the people to the pro-