

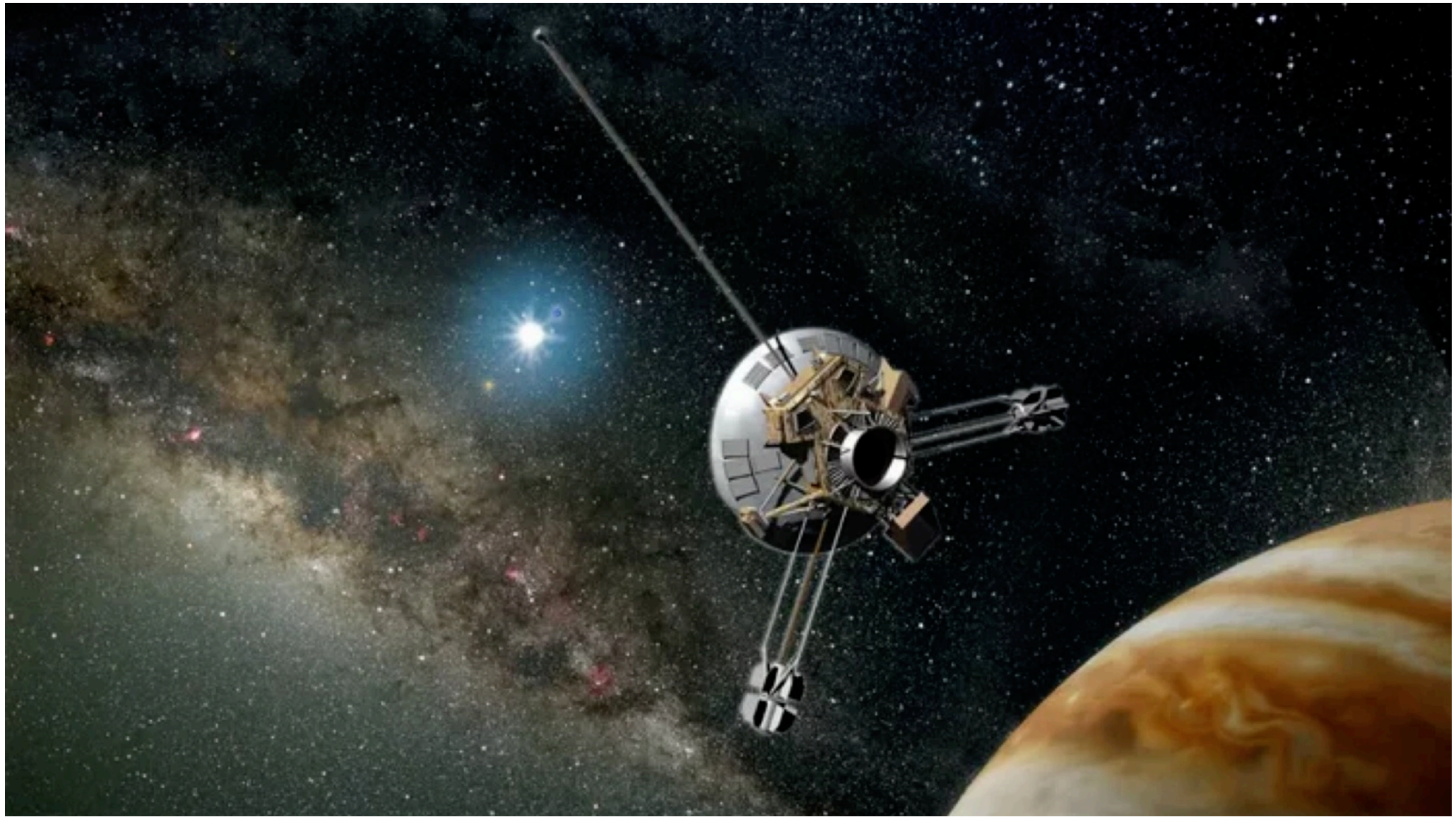
A stylized profile of a man's head, likely Jesus, rendered in shades of blue against a dark blue background. The head is filled with a lighter blue color, and a white cross is positioned on the forehead. A white path winds through the head and neck. The background features a dark blue gradient with a lighter blue circular shape behind the cross and some white, dripping-like patterns on the right side of the head.

*John 6:25-51*

# His Best Friend's Gospel

*A Subtle Shift*











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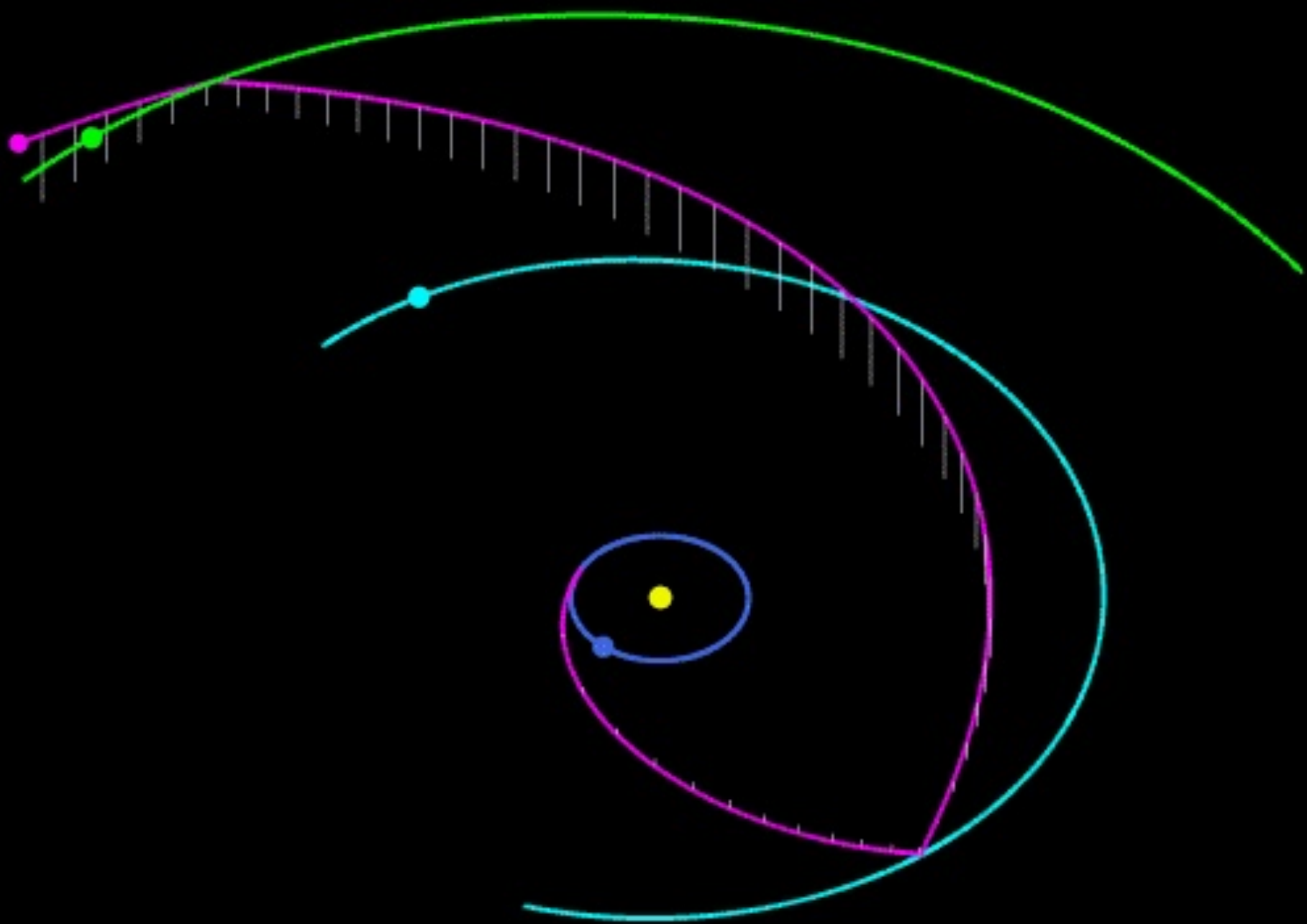
AMES

JOVIAN MAGNETIC FIELD  
SMITH ET AL.



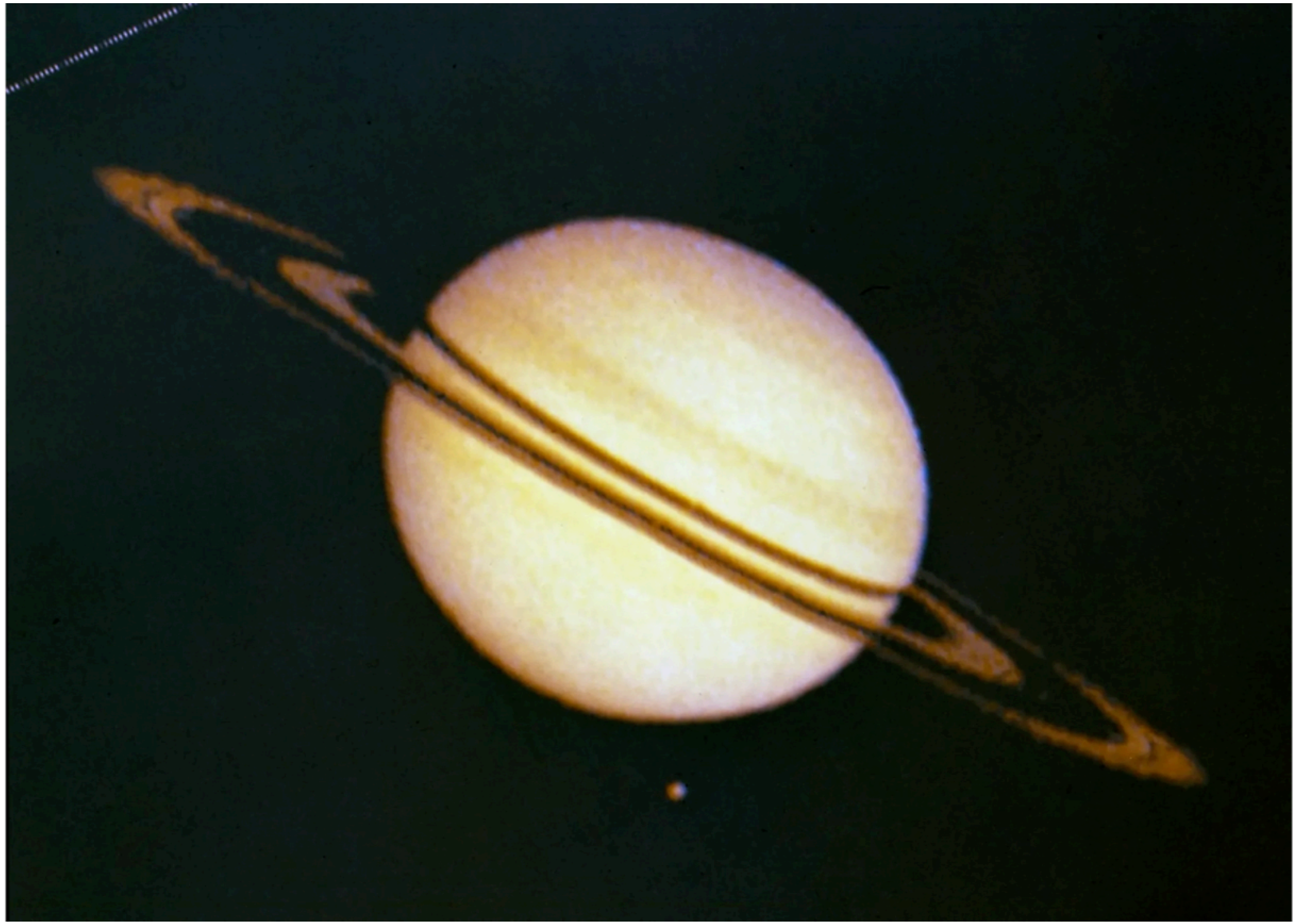
1980-06-27

Pioneer 11




17.239km/s

217,970,460km





A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sky is filled with orange and yellow light from the setting sun, with some dark clouds. The water is calm and reflects the colors of the sky. In the foreground, the bow of a wooden boat with blue trim is visible, floating on the water. A diagonal white line runs from the top left corner towards the center of the image.

IF YOU WANT  
TO WALK ON  
WATER

**GET OUT OF  
THE BOAT**



## Shift 1 — Off ourselves, and onto him

- Walking on water — John leaves out Peter — why?
- Humans have a tendency to focus on ourselves. John is not disputing that Peter did this, but wants us to avoid the temptation to make it all about us — our measure of faith, or the strength of our beliefs — and remind us that it's about Jesus.
- It's true, our faith matters, but it only matters if we remember who we are putting our faith in.





<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

*John 6:25–27*

*ESV*





<sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”





## Shift 2 — Off of the material, and onto the spiritual

- The people come to Jesus because of what they think they will get from him, here and now.
- Jesus points this out in no uncertain terms, and reminds them that what he actually comes to bring for them is something *far more* valuable.
- If all we care about is what Jesus gives us, we're worshipping the gift, not the giver. We make it a transactional relationship where we're only interested if it benefits us.
- But he wants to show, he came to overcome sin and death, bringing eternal life.





<sup>28</sup> Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” <sup>30</sup> So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? <sup>31</sup> Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ”

*John 6:28–34*

*ESV*





<sup>32</sup> Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup> They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”





### Shift 3 — Away from the law, and onto God's grace and faithfulness.

- Moses, giver of the law, also becomes the one who gives them the manna, in their mind.
- Jesus shifts their focus — even the manna was a God's faithfulness in spite of their inability to do so.
- The law, it was good, but it was not sufficient, yet they had come to believe that human effort was the decisive element in salvation.
- Jesus highlights the difference between manna (which only could sustain physical life) and the Word of God (Christ via faith) which can give spiritual (eternal) life, and redefines salvation in terms of Grace and Faith.





<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. <sup>36</sup> But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

*John 6:35–40*

*ESV*





<sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”





## Shift 4 — Off of maintaining fickle favour through obedience, and onto eternal security

- Common belief — then as now — that the main goal is about how we get on the “right side” of God’s favour, through performance and obedience.
- Jesus refocuses the conversation, and redefines things away from our faithfulness, and onto God’s.
- Speaks of eternal security, and God’s effectual calling and drawing of people to himself — not because of what *they* do, or how *deserving* they are, but because of what *He* does.
- All that are called “will be raised up on the last day” — eternal security is guaranteed for those who are truly saved.





<sup>41</sup> So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup> They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

*John 6:41–45*

*ESV*





<sup>45</sup> It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—









## Shift 5 — Off of Jesus, the *good* man, and onto Jesus, the *God-Man*

- Lots of people have no issues with Jesus the good, moral teacher. Even the people here don't struggle with him as a worker of wonders who benefits them.
- You cannot separate Jesus the teacher from Jesus the eternal God. You can't have his good moral philosophies without embracing what he said about himself, and the incredibly exclusive things he teaches about the nature of salvation through faith in **Him** as their God and saviour.





It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me

- Jesus is clearly claiming to be God, the one who will teach the people himself.
- If you want to know what it is truly all about, you *have* to shift your focus, from seeing Jesus purely as a human example, to seeing Jesus as God in the flesh, who came to die for Sin.

