

Title: A difficult Teaching
 (Will You Also Go Away?)
 Text: John 6:60-71

Will you take your aBibles, please, and turn to John chapter 6.
 John chapter 6 beginning at Vs 60 on the subject of: WILL YOU ALSO GO AWAY?
John 6 verse 60(Read 60-71)

Let us pray

^{and} By way of quick review, we are now ^(3A) in the section of scripture in John that is bringing before us a reaction to his ministry. Not everyone is following Jesus. Not everyone is responding to him as it seems from the great crowds. And this reaction to Christ has been building. It began with chapter 5 and it will continue through chapter 12.

We have noticed several things so far in our study. ~~Discussed~~ In chapter 5 Jesus healed a man that became the subject of great question and discussion. We saw the realization of His power in chapter 6 as Jesus took the five ~~loaves~~ loaves and two fish and divided it among the multitude. There were 5 thousand men alone. And this did not include the women and children. And as a result of this we discovered a great teaching on the bread of life as Jesus took what had happened and related back to the manna in the O.T. You see it is what you believe about Jesus as the bread of life. Not simply the fact that you believe that He existed. A lot of people know that Jesus existed and that he lived. But they don't want to believe his deity. And they are not claiming Him as Lord and Saviour. So, it is important what you believe about Jesus. The identity of that bread.

Well, as Jesus went on to discuss that bread, he said that you must eat my flesh and drink my blood. And all of this caused the Jews to react. And he spoke these things in the synogague in Capernaum.

And beginning with Vs 60 we learn that it not only effected the ~~Jews~~ ^{crowds of Jews} and their leaders as they heard Jesus ^{announce: Jesus the Bread of Life. But it} ~~inviting men to come to him.~~ And no ^{also effect his many Followers as well as his disciples} ~~one could come to him including themselves unless the Father would draw them unto him. We read in Vs 60 that many therefore of his disciples, when they heard this, said: "this is a difficult statement, who can hear it."~~

(11) I would like you to notice in Vs 60 to 65, the concern of his disciples.

There are ~~several~~ ^{several} things here.

(12) First, the perplexities that they felt. In Vs 60 they said that this is a difficult statement. Or, literally, "Difficult is this word." The word "difficult" comes from a root word meaning "to dry". For example it was used of ~~leather~~ ^{leather} as it dried in the sun. And then ~~it became~~ ^{it became} hard and stiff. This is a very difficult, hard, dry statement. Not dry in the sense of not interesting. But from the standpoint of hard and difficult ^{to accept}.

Remember that the disciples are saying this according to Vs 60. And it reminds me that not all those who are disciples, meaning "those following Jesus".....are truly the believing disciples. There is an important concept in the N.T. about discipleship. How Christians need to be made disciples. But I remind you that term is very broad in the N.T. That there were many who were called disciples that were not true believers in Christ.

That means this: that many people can follow Jesus. They can go around with Him. They can run around with his crowd. They can do the things that appear Christian. And yet, they are not really believing in Him. That was true in the case of our Lord. And the example is right in front of us.

This is a difficult and hard statement. And they were greatly perplexed. Now, what was the real issue? What was the difficult statement?

The answer is found down in Vs 65. Notice what it says. "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to me, unless ~~it~~ ^{it} has been ~~granted~~ ^{granted} him from the Father."

Now, Jesus is explaining what he had said on a previous occasion concerning why some folks did not believe on him. And he emphasizes his previous teaching by ~~saying~~ ^{saying} "For this reason I have said to you that no one can come to me, unless it has been granted him from the Father."

That was the difficult statement. You know, that is always difficult for people? It is difficult when they learn that there is nothing they can do in order to come to God. It is impossible for a person to ~~bring~~ ^{bring} himself to God. The Bible teaches that God is going to bring you to himself.

And that is a part of the wonderful grace of God. That God, in spite of the way we are and what we do, God in love is drawing us to Himself. And Jesus simply said: "That all the Father gives to me will come to me. And that no man can come to the Father unless the Father is going to draw him." ^{and} This was very hard with certain disciples. And maybe it is hard for you. ~~_____~~ I certainly believe that you ought to be good and try to do what God wants you to do. I think that there are certain things that are commendable in ^{one's} life. ~~_____~~ ~~may think of all of that.~~ But none of that is important in terms of drawing you to God. God is going to draw you to himself. It is not our good deeds. It is not our self-righteousness, that saves us. And it may be seem hard to you. Difficult to understand why Jesus said that. But, I urge you to look ^{into} the power of God and not unto the power of self. It is God's power. And the issue is so severe in terms of man's nature that it takes God's power. Because ^{we} ~~you~~ are not just sick, ^{we} ~~you~~ are not just needing help, the Bible says that men are dead. They are deader than a door-nail, spiritually. And it takes God's power to resurrect them and to bring them to new life.

The Bible also give us in Vs 61 another testimony to the deity of Christ. The Gospel of John, remember, is proving the deity of Christ. John is showing that Christ is more than mere man. That He was God incarnate in human flesh. And he says this in Vs 61: "BUT JESUS, CONSCIOUS THAT HIS disciples grumbled at this, said to them."

You see, Jesus knew what was in the minds of people. And being conscious of this, again emphasizing His all knowing power. He had this knowledge of what people were thinking.

The Question of Jesus in Vs 61 emphasizes, again, their perplexity, when he ask: "Does this cause you to stumble?" Does this cause you to stumble when I said that no one can come unto the Father, except the Father draw him?" Is this a stumbling block to you?

I was talking to a person the other day who was a living example of this story. As he was telling me: "There is one thing that I will never believe. That God can save you without you doing anything about it."

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He said, "that is one thing I will not believe." I ask, "what will it take for you to believe that God ^{knows} knew everything?"...

"Oh, nothing," he said, "I realize that God knows everything."

I said, "Well, could you believe that He knew about you before the foundation of the world." "Oh, he said, I suppose that is a possibility."

And I said, "Do you believe that God knew you were going to be saved?"

He said, "I am not sure.".....

I said, "Do you believe that God could have a plan that would bring you to himself without you doing anything?".....He said, "Oh, it is possible. But he ^{wouldn't} would do that."

I said, "why".....He said, "That means I would do nothing."
RIGHT.....RIGHT ON....Hay, that is what it is all about...PRAISE THE LORD.

Friends, does this offend you? Is this a stumbling block to you? You see, it does go right across the grain of the old sin nature. That is what it does. And it causes a person to say, "Hay, it takes God's power to save me. And I have nothing to do with this." *That's the issue!*

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Even the faith that we have to believe, Jesus taught us over and over again, that it isn't in and of ourselves. Why, the very faith to believe in God is a gift from God, himself. God is bringing you to himself. He loves you so much that he knows that if he left anything up to you, you would blow it. God is bringing you to himself. Don't stumble over this.

Many people make this an issue as to why they will not come to Christ. Listen, you come to christ thinking you did it, but you come to Him. And know that He did it. I don't care how you come to Christ. I don't care what you think of it. But, listen, you come to Jesus. And you will discover that the more you learn about the scriptures that God has been leading you all the time. He has been working in your life and drawing you unto himself. So, they were perplexed. And maybe you are too.

center of disciples
(2nd) Secondly, I would like you to notice, according to Vs 62, the problem that they might have, AND YOU MIGHT HAVE, if you can't see this problem. That is this hard statement that no one can come to the Father unless the Father calls him.

Jesus illustrated that by saying this: "What then if you should behold the Son of Man ascending where He was before?"

Now, from the stand point of time, we can look back at this and know that Jesus ascended. But remember that from the stand point of their time, they have not seen the ascension.

The point of Jesus for them is also a point for us in terms of believing anything that God is able to do. He said, "you think this is hard. For God to bring someone to me by his own power; and that individual had nothing to do with it." WHAT THEN IF YOU SHOULD BEHOLD THE SON OF MAN ASCENDING WHERE HE WAS BEFORE?"

Now, here again, we have another statement as to the person and character of christ. Because the little word "before" in Greek is very strong. It means "at the first".....That is first before he is here, he was up there."

Now, some people say, "Well, Jesus was born and I understand that." "But I don't understand how he existed before he was born."

That is the whole point as to who Jesus is. Jesus is not mere man. He was not merely born of human parents. He was in the womb of a human mother. But he was supernatural conceived by the Holy Spirit of God. There was no human father in the birth of Jesus. *That is the whole christian story*

And Jesus existed before he was born as a baby. And here is another statement by Jesus of that truth. Can you see something of their reaction? You mean to tell me you existed before you were born?.....

Yes.....As a matter of fact Jesus isn't don't with these men yet. If you think they are having a problem, now, listen, all the way up to the cross these men heard things they never dreamed they would hear. And at the moment of the cross when you think that all the disciples in love would stand by Jesus. No, they all ran away. The Bible says that they all forsook him. They didn't want anything to do with him. He said things continually that upset them.

I ASK YOU AGAIN. DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHO JESUS IS?.....The identity of the bread of life is the whole issue. Just as the Jews in the wilderness looked at that manna and were fed, so we to must look to Jesus who is

the bread of life. And people are still saying about Jessus, Who is he? We fail to understand his identity. And here is another statement. He said to his disciples if that was hard for you, WHAT THEN IF YOU SHOULD BEHOLD THE SON OF MAN ASCENDING WHERE HE WAS BEFORE? I was in heaven befdre I was born.

I found this exciting in light of Acts 1. Would you turn over to Acts cahapter 1. This account of the ascention is wonderful in light of John 6. Because in Asts chapter 1, remember that Jesus has been on the earth for 40 days follwoing his resurrection. And according to vs 3 He has shown himself, alive, by many convincing proofs.

Now, you would think that all of that was enough to convince them. But they were not remembering a statement in John 6 because in Vs 6 it says that when they came together they said, "Lord is it at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

They were not thinking of him ascending, at all, into heaven. Oh, no... Let's set up the kingdom. We have everything going for us. You died and arose again from the dead. That is terrific. Let's set up the kingdom.

Jesus of course told them that there was going to be an intervening peraiod of time. They would receive power, accordiang to Vs 8, when the Holy Spirit came upon them. And they would be witnesses to the whole world.

Vs 9, please.....(READ, Vs 9-11)

Is this a hard saying?....Jesus came down. He said to them, "What if you see me go up?" And now they are saying that this same one that ascended into heaven is going to come back.

And the thing that stricks me is that I wonder, and this is just opinion, but I wonder as they were watching Jesus ascend into heaven if the truth of John 6 didn't cross their minds. You know, what if I ascended into heaven where I was befdre. And I wonder if on that occasion as he was ascending if they didn't think of John 6.

Because if you think they were strightened out, listen, on the day of Pentecost there was a miraclious change in those men. But in those intervening days those men were trying to get their confidence in the one who they had walked with and lived with for three years...

The one they had forsaken. And the one who had appeared to them and tried to show them in many ways that he was really alive, that he was really all that he claimed to be. And here he is ascending into heaven and still there is that doubt and that question.

The angels said, "Why are you standing here looking. He is going to come back. Didn't he say so?" He said on the night before he went to the cross, "I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there you may be also." But there was still a question in their minds.

Thank God for the presence of the Holy Spirit that gave them that assurance. He also gives us our assurance.

Now, let's come back to John 6:63. ^{John 6:63} I would like you to notice from

Vs 63 the power of his words. Jesus emphasizes to them that it is the words that he is speaking that have tremendous power. There are three things here that I would like you to see.

^{First} One, in Vs 63, notice the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration.

Regeneration means to be born again. Notice the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the spirit that gives life says the Bible, He is the one giving life. Or, "making life" to be quite literal.

Now, here is the point of that verse. The Holy Spirit is not simply giving life to you that the Father has the power to create. The Bible is saying by putting two Greek words together, the one "make" and the other "life", that the Holy Spirit is the one "making life." He creates just as ~~surely~~ surely as the Father does, just as surely as the son does. As a matter of fact, all three substance of the triunity are said to have given us, or ~~made~~ made life for us.

Example, look back at chapter 5 verse 21....We read: "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom he ~~wishes~~ wishes."

Notice, the Father gives life or makes life. Secondly, the Son or Jesus gives life. And then third, in John 6:63 the Spirit gives life. All three persons of the Godhead are working when you become a christian and you are born again.

When you receive eternal life it is the result of the Father and the son and the Holy Spirit. All of them. And it is the Spirit's unique task to produce new life in you. He makes life. Supernature life for you.

Over in Titus 3:5 it says, "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy he saved us. By the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit."

The Holy Spirit is active in my being ~~born~~ born again, born spiritually. All three persons of the triunity are not only involved in making life, but making resurrection possible, which is the full reality of receiving life and being born again. To be resurrected after I die and to live forever, is the ultimate in having received eternal life. The Bible says in three places: In Ephesus 1:20 that the Father resurrects. In John 10:18 Jesus said "that he will resurrect his own life". And in Romans 8:11 It says that the Holy Spirit will quicken the ~~the~~ mortal bodies of believers. He will resurrect the bodies of believers.

Now, notice, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit not only produced the new birth, they not only give resurrected life, but it is a testimony to John's whole message that Jesus is, as powerful as, and equal to, the Father and the Spirit...

Are you staying with the Book? Do you know who Jesus is? John's whole point is to prove the identity of Jesus. And Jesus has the same power as the Spirit and as the Father. And so the Holy Spirit is involved in ~~the~~ regeneration.

(2) The second thing that I want you to notice in Vs 63 is the way of the flesh. The flesh referring to man's self centered nature. It says "the flesh profits nothing."

It ~~says~~ says "nothing".....Are you ^{convinced of} ~~sure~~ about that?..... You see, ^{and} the hard saying, now listen carefully, put the two together and you will see the point of Jesus....The hard saying was, the difficult thing was.... that God was going to bring people to himself and no man can do it, you see. You do not have the ability to bring yourself. And here he is saying that the way God is going to do it is that the Holy Spirit will give you life.

But, by the way, you can do nothing about it...The flesh profits nothing. Some people use very touching and emotional appeals trying to persuade people to come to christ. Others will use different methods to persuade people. The way of the flesh profits nothing. It is God who does it.

You know, God can even save a man when everything else isn't right. You know, soft music, church service and all ~~that~~ that. He really can. You know, you could be working out there in the oil fields and the Lord could save you. Believe it or not. He could be in the quietness of your own heart. It could happen at home, at work, it can be anywhere. When God is ready to work. God will draw you unto himself. *if you need respect.*

And if you are right now being effected, I mean, you want to come to Jesus, you have felt this in your heart, Listen, God is beginning to work on you, and you can thank him for it. His grace is now ministering to you. And he is drawing you unto himself. He loves you. And ~~this is a wonderful principle.~~ *And you need to respect*

Is this a hard thing? Well, it is especially when Jesus says the way of the flesh is nothing. It doesn't prohibit a single thing.

(36) The third thing is that the words are thing that gives life. The words, according to Jesus, is what gives life. He says in vs 63 "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life."

Now, at this point we need to discuss the significance of this book. It seems in the last few weeks I have talked with more people about the inspiration of the Bible. Maybe I need to take out a sermon sometime and preach about the doctrine of the inspiration of the Bible.

But I notice something. People have all kinds of views about the power of this book. Some people believe that the only power this book has is to inform you about Jesus and then some how God will work....And that isn't true.

Some people believe about inspiration that the Bible is inspired like Shakespeare was inspired to write great ~~plays~~ plays. Or, the King James language is so wonderful. It inspires me....NO, THAT ISN'T IT EITHER.

The thing that is inspired is that which was written, in the original languages in the original ~~documents~~ autographies.

As they were given under the direction of the Holy Spirit to men who wrote them. What is written is inspired. People say: "The men or authors were inspired."....NO....They were people just like you and me. They were controlled by the Holy Spirit. They were carried along by the Holy Spirit. But what was written was inspired.

Somebody says to you. "Are there errors in the Bible/"....NO..... Are there contradictions?...NO....Are there lies?.....?NO YES.....Every time the Devil opens his mouth it is a lie. And when a man is talking you don't know if he is telling the truth or he is lying. And when God speaks it is always the truth. NOW WHAT INSPIRATION ALL ABOUT?

Inspiration is about the fact that what was said whether it was a lie or truth was correctly reported and that was it. You can count on it. There is no doubt about it. When we talk about the word being the truth we are talking about the accuracy the authenticity of this written volume now in our hands. It is the words of scripture that ~~are~~^{is} now inspired. In fact, when 2 Timothy 3:16 says "all scripture is inspired of God." The word scripture is simple from the Greek meaning "writing." We get our English word "graphic arts" "the writing arts" from this greek word. It is that which was written that is inspired. That is why the Bible says that no man has any right to private interpretation of the scriptures....the writings.

It is not talking about the interpretive understanding or how we apply the word. It is talking about: I don't have any right to read into or take out except that which is there. My problem is understanding that which is there. The same thing is found in Revelation 22: No man can add to or take away from the words of the prophecy of this book. That which was written.

Now, let me go a step further. It is my personal conviction that that which was written, the Bible, has power in itself to accomplish God's work without my intervention. I believe those words are just what Jesus said: SPIRIT AND LIFE. And I believe that any person who will place their ~~face~~ faith in the Words of the scripture will experience the results in his life. Because the word has power in and of itself.

Out

Hebrews 4:12 says "The Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

This is not like any book on your desk. ~~The Bible~~ This is the Word of God. Not that it becomes the Word of God. Not that it contains the word of God. It is the word of God.

And what the devil would love for each one of us to do is to start engoring this Book. If you are not a believer, the devil dosen't want you to read this book. He dosen't want you to hear the message.

And if you are a believer the devil doesn't want you to read it either. Because it has power in and of itself to transform your life. Even when you don't want to be transformed. And I know what I am talking about. Many times when I want to go my own way, it is the dsicipline of staying in the Book that brings conviction to my life. This book will trnasform your flife. It will renew your mind. It will judge the thoughts and motives of your heart.

So, I know what we do as christians. It is real easy. We engore the book. We put it on the shelf. We don't bring it to church with us.

We say, "Oh, yes, we love the Bible." But we never read it. That is what we do. Because this book brings conviction. It speaks to your heart. It convicts you of sin. All the sins in your life.

Let's be honest, people. It is the book that has power. And don't try to run you life apart from this book. The Words are spirit and they have life.

James 1:18 says that the Father causes the new birth through the written Word of God.

In I Peter 1:23 it says we are born again by the word of God. In 2 Peter 1:4 it says that we are made partakers of the divine nature by the precious and magnificent promises which are in His Word. They have power and they have life. You see, the point of this whole discussion in John 6 is: that the people were not believing the Word that Jesus was speaking.

That is the whole issue here today, also...^{etc} Back to John 6, please. ^{about the concern of the disciples}
In Verse 64 and 65, the ~~fourth~~ ^{third} thing I want you to notice is that Jesus mentions the presence of unbelief....

The presence of unbelieve was really the problem as to why they it was a difficult saying. (Vs 64 says: Read Vs 64)

must Before Judas ever had one thought to betray Jesus, Jesus knew he would. He knows all things.

What about unbelief?.....I would like you to notice that the issue here is not that they would not come to him, it is that they are not able to come to him. Vs 65 says "for this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to me.".....The Greek is that no man has the power to do it. No man is able at all. He doesn't have the power to come. It is not even a question of whether or not he wants to. He is not able to come.

And they were stumbling over that...WHY?...Unbelief...Not believing his words. If they had believed his words, what would have happened?....

They would have come to him. That is the point of the power of the word. Romans 10:17 says that Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

I can tell you how you can come to Jesus Christ. I don't care if you want to or you don't. I can tell you how you can come to Christ. BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD...That is how you can come to Christ....I can guarantee it. You believe that this is the truth and you will come to Christ.

Jesus said, He who wills to do my will, will know of the doctrine ~~where~~ whether I speak of myself or of God.

A lot of people just don't want to hear the truth. You want to read the truth, believe the truth, you are going to come to God.

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(d) Then, finally, in verses 66-71 I want you to notice the confession of Peter. God bless Peter. Don't you just appreciate him?

Now that was some tense situation. I hope I have created that tension for you. It was really tenses. It was a difficult saying. ~~So~~ don't treat that lightly. And Vs 66 really tells you why. "As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him any more."

Called disciples...Yes...Ran around with Jesus...YES...Followed Him..Yes. But that was it. That was the straw that broke the camels back. And they would not walk with him anymore.

The text is literally saying that they departed into the back. Now, what does that mean? I translated it literally so that you would get the point. It means that they returned to their former condition. That is what people usually do. You know, "Well, I will try Jesus for awhile."

They will run around and do a few things that he says and does and try to act like a christian, then a little bit of adversity comes ~~along~~ along, ~~so~~ some problems, and they walk with him no more. They go back to their former condition because basically they never left.

Reminds me of the parable of the sower. Jesus said that a sower went forth to sow seed. And there was all kinds of soil. There was wayside ~~soil~~ soil. Hard rock with a little dirt over it. And you don't know the rock is there. The seed is dropped there. What happens. The birds see it because there is so soil to cover it. And the birds come and carry it away. And it never takes root.

And then there is the seed that drops on stony ground. And there is a little bit of soil. And the seed ~~soil~~ does take root. But there is no depth and the plants soon dry and die. And Jesus said that that is the kind of person that when the winds of persecution come up and the sun of trials and tribulation come around it falls away. Even though it receives the word with much joy at the first.

And then there is the seed that fall among the thrones. And the seed ~~grow~~ grows. But the thrones choke the new plants and they become unfruitful. Choke it by the cares of this world. The concern for the here and now instead of eternity. And the deceitfulness of riches/ Wanting things... That that is a ^{have} big goal in your life to ~~whole~~ have a whole bunch of things. And that chokes the word and it doesn't bear ~~any~~ fruit.

But, the good ground does bear fruit. And Jesus said that that seed that the sower was sowing was the Word of God. And the issue according to Luke 8 was that men might ~~be~~ be saved.

So, sometimes there are people who try to follow Jesus, they are like the plant that springs up but there is no depth. You are going around with it, but you are not real. And one day we discovery that you are not. Many of his disciples went to the back, to their former condition and didnot walk anymore with Jesus.

Then Jesus ask one of the most piercing questions in the Bible. And if he were here he would ask it of all of us right now. "Jesus said therefore to the twelve, WILL YOU ALSO GO AWAY?....."

Are you just here for the ride? Are you just enjoiing a few facts from the Bible? Feeling that you must go to church on Sunday? Feeling that that is the right thing to do.

I wonder if perseuaction would come to this church, how many would leave. Only God knows. Will you also go away, says Jesus? Will you also go away when you hit some difficult thing that you don't understand? Some problem that you ^{face} ~~face~~ and you don't know how to handle it.

Will, I am sure glad for Simon Peter. But like many of us he responded without knowing the full wight of it. Simon is the same one who denied Jesus. But Simon pops up and thank God for him and says, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life." Oh, that is so wonderful...

You know, I don't ~~know~~ know where the rest of you guys are going, but I don't have anywhere else to go. When all else fails we might as well stay with you. We don't have anywhere else to go(Ha)...

Oh, friends, don't read any great theological meaning in that. I believe Peter must have sensed some frustration and doubt as he watched those other disciples leave. He didn't understand either. Listen, the Bible is going to go on to tell you more. These 12 who ran around with Christ and were close to him, they didn't understand him either. And I am sure that Peter as he watch all these disciples leave wander himself about this hard saying.

Will you also gof away?....I don't know where we are going to go? You have the words of eternal life. I LIKE THAT...

In the hour of doubt and confusion, I thank God for his Word. I have heard the word. And that stablizes me in that moment.

You have the words of eternal life. Notice three things in these verses, (1) Number one, the reaction of ^{those} these many disciples. I have already mention mentioned this. They just wanted to get out of there. They didn't want any more to do with him.

I think that happens tof all of those who don't want to accept the fact that Jesus is God. In time you will leave.

(2) Secondly, the response of Peter. Vs 69 "And we have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One, the messiah, of God."

You see, Peter had learned this much. He said that we have come to believe this, and we have come to know this fact. That you are the Messiah, the Holy One of God.

Then the question is: why in the world did Peter denie Him, and why in the world did these men turn their backs on him later on? Because ~~still~~ all that we have seen and heard is the credentials for messiahship. But there were two things that remained uncertain to those men.

Number one, was the issue of the death of Jesus. They in no way wanted the Messiah to die. That still is a problem with people today, who want to believe in a coming Messiah, but they are not sure that that Messiah died in history. The O.T. did predict it in many,many passages. It predicted that the Messiah would die. He would suffer and die. Buft that they were not sure of...

And the second thing that they were not sure of was his identity.

Over and over again they were faced with the fact that the eternal God who made them was the one who was talking with them in a human body. And that caused them much anxiety just like it causes people today. To believe that Jesus of Nazareth, the one who lived here on earth, was the God who ~~did~~ created the world. The Bible says in John 1:3 that all things were made by him. And without him not anything was made that was made by Jesus.

(3) And the third thing is the revelation of a trader. Jesus said in Vs 70 "Did I myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" He spoke of Judas the one who would betray him.

When it says that he choose them, that is a remainder that he selected them. Many people say that isn't it sad that one of those who decided to follow Jesus turned out to be a trayder.

Oh, no...Jesus selected a trader in the beginning. The word choose means just what it says. I choose you for myself. And one of you is a devil. I am telling you that right now. It was part of his plan.

You say, you must be kidding. Oh..no...As a matter of fact the Bible teaches this. In John 13...in John 17....It is a quote from Psalms 41. It is a fulfilment of prophecy. ~~And~~ And Jesus said that the reason he is going to betray me is because it is a fulfillment of scripture. The O.T. predicted that the one who eats with me is going to betray me.

You say, Boy, why did Jesus select one who was going to be a devil? But you know it is kind of funny to me, ~~but~~ ^{because} really all of them were devils.... They really were. Just like you and me. Non of them could claim...Hay, I deserve to be a follower of Christ.....

He didn't choose them because they had personal worth or because they were outstanding leaders. Many of them had little or no education. They were a funny group. In fact one of them was a Zealot, Simon, he wanted to kill everybody....You know, what a group....I believe we get the wrong idea. These were men like you and I. And Jesus called them from every walk of life....He took a Roman tax collector. I man who was so corrupt that he was cheting his fellow ~~Jews~~ Jews. He took those men.

His point here is: Listen, I am in total control of this entire group. And I just want you to know it. One of you is a devil. And I know all about it. And he is going to betray me.

And Peter is the one that brought up such a tremendous testimony. And it turn out that Peter who never wanted to be that one who betray him, but are we to say that because Judas betrayed him that he is wrose than Peter who denied him? The issue again is one of God's grace. The Bible says that Judas was fulfilling scripture. And the question is why?....Why did God have one man in that group of 12, turn out to be a trader?

Well, Judas himself said in Matthew 27:4 "I have betrayed incouenct blood." He had the opportunity to view first hand the moral perfection of Christ. He saw everything about Jesus. He knew who he was. And he said so at the last moments of his life. He knew what he had done. And for all time it teaches us that no matter how much a person knows about Jesus christ, he can be a hypocrite through and through.

It is possible for you to hear everything that I am saying just as Judas did. It is possible like on the night before Jesus went to the cross, to pass the food to Judas ~~and~~ and ~~in~~ in love ^{read out to him gives him yet} to ~~him~~ yet another opportunity ^{to respond}. And yet Judas left that meeting still determined to betray him. It is possible to hear everything about Jesus and not love him.

And maybe you are one who knows a lot about Jesus. And yet you haven't fallen down upon your knees at the feet of Christ and cry out: "MY LORD AND MY GOD...." But you have now come to know that he is the saviour and the only one who can save you. That He is the God who made us.

Jesus....Jesus....Jeus....there is something about that name.....He is the one who can save you, my frined. He is the only one. Because he is the eternal God. *Will you let him give you, or will*

Let's close in prayer

you always go away?