

## To Whom Shall We Go?

*John 6:60-71*

**Thought for the Day:** Jesus alone has the words that tells us how to have eternal life.

### **60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"**

- Jesus had gone from identifying Himself as the living bread that came down from heaven to insisting that, if his listeners wanted to experience eternal life in heaven, they would have to eat His flesh and drink His blood.
- Jesus used extremely hyperbolic language to convey the fact that we must enter into an intimate, personal, spiritual relationship with Him in which we place our complete trust in Him, and assimilate Him into our life as the Savior of our soul and the Lord of our life.
- "The motive behind Jesus' harsh words is not difficult to see — he wanted people to count the cost of following him." (*Life Application Commentary Series*)
- The "hard sayings" of Jesus weed out those who are not serious about following Him.

### **61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this?"**

- Literally, "Does this cause you to stumble? Are you scandalized by this?"
- "[*Scandalidzo*] is often used in the New Testament to indicate a falling away into unbelief" (Matthew 13:21) (*Life Application Commentary Series*)
- The people who rejected what Jesus was saying were not true disciples; the "hard sayings" served to demonstrate the true condition of their hearts.
- Many people today are scandalized by the hard sayings of God's Word because they do not support their evil choices and perverted lifestyles. If the teachings of the Bible are hard for us to accept, it is because we have hard hearts! (John 8:41-47)

### **62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?**

- "Jesus had been purposely harsh so as to separate the true believers from those who were accompanying him for the wrong reasons. Some sought a new political party; others thought Jesus might lead a revolt against Rome; still others were simply fascinated with theological discussions. All of these thoughts were potential starting points of interest in Jesus, but they were not enough to make people real disciples." (*Life Application Commentary Series*)

### **63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.**

- "These people had been thinking in terms of Christ's literal flesh, but here He told them that eternal life was not gained by eating flesh but by the work of the Holy Spirit of God. Flesh cannot give [spiritual] life; only the Spirit can do this [John 3:6]. They had taken His words literally and had not realized that they were to be understood spiritually. And so here the Lord Jesus explained that the words that He spoke were spirit and they were life; when His sayings about eating His flesh and drinking His blood were understood in a spiritual way, as meaning belief in Him, then those who accepted the message would receive eternal life." (*MacDonald, p. 2119*)

**64 But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)**

- From the beginning of his ministry, Jesus knew that some of those who were following Him were not true believers—they did not truly believe that He was the Son of God who came from heaven.
- "The difficulty lay not so much in their inability [to understand] as in their unwillingness [to accept]." (*MacDonald, p. 2119*)

**65 And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."**

- Cp. verse 44: Our salvation is not a work of our flesh; it is the work of God. Only His sovereign work in our lives can overcome our unbelief.
- The understanding of the Gospel, the desire and determination to come to Christ for salvation are gracious gifts to us from God the Father.

**66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.**

- "These sayings of the Lord Jesus proved so distasteful to many who had followed Him that they now left Him and were no longer willing to associate with Him. These disciples were never true believers. They followed the Lord for various reasons, but not out of genuine love for Him or appreciation of who He was." (*MacDonald, p. 2119*)
- Unlike many church leaders today, Jesus didn't compromise the truth for the sake of popularity.

**67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?"**

- A moment of decision: Will we follow Jesus, or will we follow the world?
- Jesus' teachings divide and separate: He doesn't force anyone to follow Him; it's our choice, but we must choose! (Matthew 10:34-36)

**68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."**

- There are many other religions and philosophies in the world, but Jesus alone has the words of eternal life. Jesus alone is the Holy One of God—the Messiah, the Son of God.
- All religions do not lead to heaven; if they are not built on the words of Jesus, they all lead to hell! (Acts 4:12; John 14:6)

**70 Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." 71 He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.**

- "In response to Jesus' message, some people left; others stayed and truly believed; and some, like Judas, stayed but tried to use Jesus for personal gain. Many people today turn away from Christ when they discern his real message. Others pretend to follow, going to church for status, approval of family and friends, or business contacts. We have only two choices for responding to Jesus — we either accept him or reject him. Have you accepted or rejected Christ? (*Life Application Commentary Series*)
- We can fool others; we can even fool ourselves; but we cannot fool the Lord!