

The Gospel of John

6:60-71

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.
As with this study and all bible studies, remember to pray before you start.

A quick refresher on last week's study. Last week we read of Jesus speaking to the Jews about partaking of His flesh and blood. Jesus was trying to explain to them the fact that He was to die for their sins and by partaking of His flesh and blood that they would have eternal life. Jesus explained that this was not cannibalism, but was symbolic, speaking of the bread of life.

To all of this we read the Jews response.

✠ **John 6:60** *Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"*

Did you know that Jesus had more than the twelve disciples?

✠ **Luke 10:1 & 17** *After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.
Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."*

So what does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

The Easton Bible Dictionary defines it as:

A disciple of Christ is one who (1) believes his doctrine, (2) rests on his sacrifice, (3) imbibes his spirit, and (4) imitates his example

And the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia says:

it implies that the person not only accepts the views of the teacher, but that he is also in practice an adherent. The word has several applications. In the widest sense it refers to those who accept the teachings of anyone, not only in belief but in life.

And here are a few verses where Jesus explains what a disciple is.

✠ **Matt 10:24** *A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.*

✠ **Luke 6:40** *A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.*

✠ **Luke 14:26-27** *If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be*

My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

† **Matt 10:42** ***And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.***

† **Luke 14:33** ***So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.***

These are the things Jesus says we should be or do to be His disciple. With all this in mind, let's look at this week's opening verse again.

✠ **John 6:60** ***Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"***

This may have been the seventy or possibly even more who were saying this. Remember that there were 5,000 men the day before who were fed by Jesus, and this is the following day after they went to look for Him.

But although these 70 men had been with Jesus, they never heard anything like He was now teaching them.

They knew they were empowered to heal.

† **Luke 10:9** ***And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'***

And share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

† **Luke 10:16** ***He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.***

But with all of this power, they were now confused about the bread of life or flesh and blood thing, as they probably called it. ***"This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"***

So many want the power of Jesus in their lives but they don't want the giver of the power Himself. They want to be able to call on God when they are in need and may go to church just because they are in need, but after it's all over they forget about God until they need Him again.

Some (sad to say) want Jesus just for financial gain or for recognition. They want to have their healing services, not so they can heal people, but so they can ask or persuade others to give to them financially.

We even read of a man who did this in the book of Acts.

† **Acts 8:18-21** ***And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But***

Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God."

Remember that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are to benefit others and not us. When we desire these gifts for personal gain, that's when we start using our gifts under our own power, and the results are self-gain and no one getting ministered to. Here Simon wanted this gift, not so others could be empowered through the Holy Spirit to serve others, but so that he could receive financial gain from it. You see Simon wanted to pay for this gift and then he wanted to charge others to use it on them. If someone is truly gifted from God, they won't ask or seek financial gain from their gift(s).

I think I may have mentioned it before, but when I was teaching a home group on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, there was a man who had severe shoulder pain from his years of being a postman. Also in this group was a lady had who just received her license to practice medicine as a chiropractor. You would think that if she had the gift to heal that she would have taken care of the man right then and there, but instead she said for him to call her and set up an appointment with her.

I'm glad I don't have to set up an appointment to talk to the Lord or have Him minister to me. As with your gift(s), don't set up an appointment with someone to use your gift(s). Use your gift(s) right then and there; after all, it's not for financial gain that they are given to us, but rather to ministering to others.

Some will accept Jesus and want His saving grace but they will also hang onto their old lifestyle not wanting to get rid of it.

† **Luke 14:33** *So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.*

There is a difference between struggling with sin and holding onto it. If you struggle with sin, you are saying that you agree with God that what you are doing is sinful and you want it out of your life, but it's hard to get rid of some things and they seem to keep creeping up on you and haunting you.

† **Romans 7:14-20 (NLT)** *The law is good, then. The trouble is not with the law but with me, because I am sold into slavery, with sin as my master. I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate. I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience shows that I agree that the law is good. But I can't help myself, because it is sin inside me that makes me do these evil things.*

I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. I want to, but I can't. When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I

do it anyway. But if I am doing what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing it; the sin within me is doing it.

But on the other hand, if you continue in your sin and could care less what Jesus or anyone else thinks, then you are holding onto your sin, not really giving up your all to Jesus. You just don't want to go to hell, but you want to continue to live like hell.

Jesus' words were a hard saying for the disciples, because they were so excited about what they could do, and not the fact that they could proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

† **Luke 10:17** *Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."*

That's what happens when you get caught up in works, you start to become blind of the spiritual things you once knew. This is a scary place to be, I know this personally! Our rejoicing should be in what Jesus did for us and not in the power He has given us. The power is a secondary thing, if you will, that comes from our obedience towards, and love for Jesus and others. Once we start looking or having more faith in that power or the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are taking our eyes off of Jesus and putting them on our works.

That's what happens with some of these so-called faith healers. They may have known the Lord at one time, but when the Holy Spirit gifted them with healing, they just took off with the gift and left Jesus behind.

Now the gift is gone, and all they have is a sideshow and a greed for money.

Now all of these the disciples (70) were confused by all that Jesus had been teaching them. So what is Jesus' response?

✠ **John 6:61-65** *When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you? What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."*

You may be asking how we know that this is referring to more than just the twelve, because Jesus refers to them as ***His disciples***. I know the answer and if you would read ahead a few more verses you will to. If not, you just have to wait until we get there.

The first thing Jesus says is four very powerful words: ***"Does this offend you?"***

If you are offended by the words of Jesus, then you are also offended by having Jesus in your life.

† **Mark 8:38** *"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."*

† **Luke 7:23** *"And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."*

In church, are you quick to say that you are a Christian to other Christians, but after church is over, are you ashamed to tell others about Jesus or that you even know Him?

† **Matt 5:46-47** *For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?*

So what you are doing is living a double life. In church and around Christians you portray yourself as a Christian, but in the world you portray yourself as just one of the guys or girls.

So which one is the real you? One test is to look and see which one you are when no one else is around. When you are alone, do you

Read the bible and pray,

Or

Do you watch R rated movies, or drink, or take drugs, or read tabloid or pornography magazines, or even visit web sites that you shouldn't be going to as a Christian?

If you do the first (Read the bible and pray when you are alone, but act like the world around non-Christians) then you need to pray and repent of your double standard way of life and if this is a real struggle for you, then I would encourage you to get counseling from your pastor or an elder at your church.

If you do the second thing(s) then you need to really examine your relationship with Jesus Christ and you need to repent of this and turn to Jesus admitting your deception.

The church in Laodecia was like the first and this is what Jesus said to them:

† **Rev 3:15-16** *I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.*

In either case you are playing with fire, or maybe even preparing yourself to play with fire for all eternity.

Sure, you may be able to fool the people here on earth, but you can't fool God.

Jesus continues with:

✠ *"What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."*

Or as the NLT puts verse 62:

✎ **John 6:62 (NLT)** *Then what will you think if you see me, the Son of Man, return to heaven again?*

Kind of like: I have shown you an earthly miracle, what if you saw a spiritual one, which was Me going up to heaven.

Because as we learned over the past few weeks Jesus was teaching them spiritual things, but they were caught up in earthly things. Jesus says this in verses 63 & 64 *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. "But there are some of you who do not believe."*

I am trying to tell you spiritual things that you may have eternal life, but you are so worried about earthly things, which mean nothing and only will end in death. I have given you the earthly food for your mortal bodies, but now I am offering you spiritual food that will give you eternal life. But there are some of you who don't want it.

Have you ever been hungry and as you look in the refrigerator and cupboards you just can't seem to find what you want, even though there is plenty of food in the frig and cupboards. Now you could eat what is in the frig or cupboards and it would satisfy your hunger, but usually when this happens you are not really hungry, it's your taste buds and brain that wants something to satisfy your desires which is not really a hunger. That's sort of what's happening here. The people were hungry again and Jesus was offering them spiritual food, but they didn't want what Jesus was offering them even though it was there, they wanted to feed their flesh. Basically they wanted to satisfy their taste buds for fish sandwiches again as their brains reminded them of what they just ate the day before, instead of the bread of life which Jesus was offering to them.

John puts a statement in here in verse 64 that I find interesting: *For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.*

I have to wonder if sometimes when the twelve were alone with Jesus, if He taught them about how some would not believe even though they were following Jesus.

But the church is the same way, there are those who go to church just to follow the crowd or be a part of something. But when the teaching comes along, they don't understand it and wonder how we can be thankful for Jesus' flesh and blood, because they can only understand in earthly terms.

Eventually these people, even though they may appear to be Christians, will soon fade or walk away because they don't really want the words of life, just the fun of hanging out with good people who don't party or take advantage of them.

So do we hunt these people out and get rid of them?

Jesus told a parable about this sort of thing in the book of Matthew. At the end of the parable Jesus said:

✠ **Matt 13:30** *Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."*

We are not to judge, because we may judge incorrectly and cast out the wrong ones. In the end the truth will come out. But if someone is drawing others away from Jesus and the teaching of the church, then I would bring this before the pastor or an elder in your church.

✠ *And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."*

Or as we would think of it as, this is what Jesus meant back in verse 39.

✠ **John 6:39** *"This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day."*

And here is the response or action of the people to Jesus' words.

✠ **John 6:66-71** *From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.*

These 70 men had heard the words of Jesus and saw the miracles and had decided that this was just not for them. Little did they know that by rejecting Jesus, they were accepting eternal damnation.

People even today just don't get that concept. They think that it's ok to reject Jesus, and when they die they will party in hell or God will pardon them because of the good that they did.

If you are looking for a party, it won't be in hell it will be in heaven and you have been given an invitation, but you must RSVP before you get to the door or you won't be able to enter.

As far as doing good, by whose standards are you comparing your good deeds to? And do your good deeds outweigh your bad? If you could even try to say yes to that, then tell me what good deeds did you do that outweighed your rejection of God's Son, Jesus who died for you?

Only by accepting Jesus can you enter heaven, and you must do it here on this earth because when you get to heaven it will be too late.

So how do you do this? With a belief in your heart and prayer like this one.

Jesus, I admit I am a sinner. I know my sinful ways far outweigh any good that I think I may have done. I ask You to please forgive me for my sins. I believe that You died on the cross for all my sins and that You rose from the dead on the third day. I also choose to turn from these sins as I now turn to you. I am answering Your invitation to spend eternity in heaven. Please consider this prayer as my RSVP to that invitation. Please fill me now with Your Holy Spirit and may I tell others about You also so that they can also RSVP to Your invitation to them too. Thank You Jesus. I ask this in Your name Jesus. AMEN!

That's it, just a prayer, repenting of your sins and a belief in your heart of Jesus. I know it may sound too easy, but Jesus did all the hard work for you on the cross!

Jesus then asks the 12 if they want to leave (See this is how we know there were more than just the 12 disciples) with verses 67- 69 being one of my all time favorite verses.

Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Peter's words are so right on. As Christians we have all gotten to that point where Jesus asks if we will follow Him or reject Him, and we come to realize that we can go nowhere else and that there is no other way to heaven but through Jesus. His words are true and in them there is life for all eternity.

I could almost see a smile on Jesus' face as Peter says these words, because this is why He came to die so we may believe in Him.

But then His face turns from a smile to a frown as He says the closing statement here in chapter 6.

✎ Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.

Some think that Judas was a believer but that he had backslidden, but did you catch what Jesus called him ***one of you is a devil***. No Christian is a devil nor can a Christian be possessed by a devil! It's interesting that Jesus allowed Judas to continue with Him and the other eleven even though He knew Judas would betray Him.

There are a few possible reasons why Jesus did this, but only He knows why He did. First, it could be that Jesus came to die and He desired that all would come to repentance including Judas. Judas was given every opportunity to repent but he chose not to. Second I think Jesus wanted His disciples and us to really understand how deceiving Satan can be, because for three and a half years Judas was with them. He ate, drank and slept with them; he was even put in charge of the money, which he stole from the

moneybox that he carried. He was one of the guys in a close nit group, and he deceived them all except for Jesus.

We all need to be careful because satan is very sly as Jesus taught us.

† **Matt 7:15** *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*

How do we know who are the wolves and who are the sheep? Jesus tells us this also in the next verses.

† **Matt 7:16-20** *You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

Are they working for the kingdom of God or for their own gain and recognition?
Do they encourage you or discouraged you, because they are persuading others to go in a different direction then what the scriptures say to?
Do they draw others to Jesus or the world?

I am not encouraging you to go on a witch-hunt throughout your church to find the bad apples, just be cautious on what you listen to, who's books you read and what someone may teach.

As I have always said from the very first study I did here on the Internet and I will say it again and again, "*Check out what I teach and that it can ALL be found throughout scripture. If not, then let me know where I am wrong and give me the scripture supporting it.*" It's not so that I can argue with you, I just want to always be sure I am teaching 100% of God's word and I will correct any errors you point out to me that I believe are incorrect according to the bible. As of this date I have had no error pointed out to me in the past 15+ years. Either it's because there are no errors in the teachings, or no one is checking it out?

But I also would encourage you to check out all teachings you receive, whether from your pastor or another pastor or a teacher of God's word. After all, your eternity hangs on what the bible says; don't trust your eternal destiny to anyone but God!
God wont ask if you believed what I said or your pastor, God will ask if you believed in His word and His Son, and the only way to truly say yes, is to read it for yourself!

Well, we made it through another chapter. Next week we will start chapter 7. Have you ever wondered what Jesus brothers thought about all of this? Did you even know Jesus had brothers and sisters with Mary as the mother? Next week we will find out the answer to these questions, so read ahead through chapter 7.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may your faith be in God alone and His word and not mans!