

The Life of Jesus Christ

Lesson 11 – In Galilee And Beyond

March 25, 2020

Discourse on Spiritual Food and
True Discipleship –
John 6:22-71

1

“As a result of this ...”

John 6:66-71

“This” being the “difficult statement” or teaching. It was because of what Jesus taught.

“... Many of His *disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.*”

- True discipleship isn’t measured when it’s easy but when it’s hard.

They “*withdrew*” or turned back ... like the Israelites wanted to do at Kadesh-Barnea. (Numbers 14:4)

They had “*judged*” themselves “*unworthy of eternal life.*” (Acts 13:46-48)

2

“As a result of this ...”

John 6:66-71

“No one, after putting his hand to the plow and **looking back**, is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62; cf. Philippians 3:13-14; Numbers 14:1-4)

We can choose to return to what we left behind. (2 Peter 2:20-22; Galatians 4:9, “... *how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things ...*”)

The Hebrew writer describes it as one who “*shrinks back*” (Hebrews 10:35-39)

3

“As a result of this ...”

John 6:66-71

The synagogue having emptied out, Jesus alone with the twelve said,

“**You do not want to go away also, do you?**” (John 6:66)

Peter speaks up on behalf of the twelve:

“**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.**” (John 6:68-69)

Will we hold on to it? (Philippians 2:16)

4

“As a result of this ...”

John 6:66-71

Not just out of a sheer investment perspective (for they had forsaken everything; Matthew 19:27), but truly understanding **two crucial and inseparable truths**:

1. **Who You are:** “**You are the Holy One of God.**” (“worthy of veneration ... set apart for God ...”, Thayer) (Proverbs 9:10; Isaiah 1:4; 10:20; 30:9-15)
2. **What You exclusively offer:** “**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.**” (John 6:63; 12:47-50; 14:6) NO ONE ELSE DOES!

5

“As a result of this ...”

John 6:66-71

A positive moment tempered with disappointment:

“Jesus answered them, ‘**Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?**’ Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.” (John 6:70-71; 13:18-19; 15:16-19)

God’s choices have never taken away man’s choices! (2 Thessalonians 2:13-15; Colossians 3:12)

6

"I Am The Bread Of Life ..."

John 6:26-71

Lessons for me to learn:

1. **Work even harder** for the spiritual bread of life than we do for the physical (verse 27).
2. To do that, we must **realize the spiritual needs** everyone has that fleshly blessings will never address ... raise our thinking to the spiritual level (verses 35, 48-51).
3. The goal is that we be in **fellowship with Jesus** ("*abides in Me and I in him*") (verse 56).
4. The need to **draw near to God** and be drawn by Him **by consuming His word** (verses 44-45, 63, 68).

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