

MEN'S BREAKFAST - To Whom Shall We Go?

What is something that you enthusiastically started but were later tempted to quit?

For what causes have people willingly suffered and even died?

How did you feel when you were first rejected by a friend or sweetheart?

John 6:60-71 [60] On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" [61] Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? [62] What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! [63] The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. [64] Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. [65] He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him." [66] From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. [67] "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. [68] Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. [69] We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." [70] Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" [71] (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

DISCUSSION:

1. How did many of Jesus' disciples respond to His teaching? (6:60)
2. Why do you think many of Jesus' followers deserted him?
3. What did Jesus ask the grumbling disciples? (6:31)
4. What kind of words did Jesus speak to His audience? (6:63)
5. After all this talk about eating his flesh earlier why this comment in the middle of verse 63?
6. What terms associated with eating and processing food can also be applied to assimilating Jesus into our life?
7. What did Jesus know? (6:64)
8. Who did Jesus say could come to Him? (6:65)
9. What did many of Jesus' disciples do after Jesus spoke these words? (6:66)
10. Do you think Jesus was intentionally harsh? Why or why not?
11. Do you think the people's problem was their not being able to understand? If not their understanding what was the problem?
12. Do you think people were offended that salvation was not something they could do themselves? (ie. Be good enough to earn it)
13. What question did Jesus ask His twelve disciples? (6:67)
14. What was Peter's reply to Jesus' question? (6:68-69)
15. What did Jesus say about His disciples? (6:70)
16. Whom did Jesus call a devil? (6:71)
17. What teaching do Jesus' followers find so unacceptable (6:54-56)?
18. Why do you think Peter and the others decided to stay? How does this relate to verse 65?
19. It is interesting that Jesus at this point (this early on) announces that there is a devil among them, it is also curious that with so many people deserting and not understanding what kept Judas with the group at this point?

Matthew 16:15-16 (NIV) 15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Mark 8:29 (NIV) 29 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ."

Luke 9:20 (NIV) 20 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

Philippians 2:9-11 (NIV) 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus

Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Romans 8:11 (NIV) 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

A Few of the other 70 Hard sayings by Jesus:

Matthew 5:21-22 (NIV) "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 5:29-30 (NIV) 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Luke 12:10 (NIV) And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

Luke 14:26 (NIV) 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple.

REFLECTION:

1. What words of Jesus are hard for you to accept?
2. Have you known anyone who stopped following Jesus? How did their action affect you?
3. How do people today make Jesus into an errand boy for their own personal agenda? How have you been tempted to do so?
4. What teachings of Jesus have you found difficult to understand or accept?
5. What makes some of Jesus' teachings difficult to understand and follow?
6. What might cause someone to stop following Jesus?
7. When have you ever felt like turning away from following Jesus?
8. What has kept you from turning away from Christ?

9. What makes you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

10. What difficult teaching of Jesus will you ask God to help you understand and apply to your life?

11. What struggling Christian could use your encouragement this week as he or she continues to follow Jesus?

12. It is curious that Jesus has been talking about being chosen by God for salvation. He chose the 12 yet one is not destined for salvation, what is the difference in the 11 and Judas that make the difference?

