

The Gospel of St. John

John 6:60-71

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- John 6 says it all:
 - Deity of Christ
 - Compassion of God consistently shown
 - Response of true disciples
 - Response of false disciples
 - Don't waste your life - what are you working for?
 - Sovereign plan of God, mystery of conversion
 - Does this foreshadow and establish transubstantiation Eucharist?
 - Powerful preaching of Jesus
 - Salvation and eternal life - Believe. Believe. Believe.

Believing:

- There is nothing in which you can be employed that is more acceptable to God than
 - Yielding to the evidence set before you
 - Acknowledging Jesus as Messiah, the Son of God, and the savior of sinners
 - Recognizing that Jesus is present in your life, yielding to him Lordship of your life.
 - Trusting what Jesus says
 - Obeying his commandments - respond
- This is what it means to believe!

Verses 60-61:

- John refers to some of these as disciples of Christ. Does that mean they were true believers? Did they resist the irresistible grace?
- Disciples [maqhatāz, mā-th•-t•'s] - a learner, pupil. Generally someone who attaches themselves to a teacher as a student.
- There is no implication about devotion or sincerity. John the Baptist, the Pharisees, Moses, and Paul all had disciples.

Verses 62-63:

- “Are you offended by what I said about eating my flesh and drinking my blood? What if you see the Son of man ascending to where He was before, will you realize then that I am not talking about my literal flesh and blood, that I am speaking figuratively? My flesh and blood won't even be found among you. It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh is of no avail here. I am talking to you about the things flesh and blood symbolize. I am talking to you about spiritual things that give life.”

Verses 63 (cont'd):

- “the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”
- Is what Jesus says the Word of God?
- Let’s look at a few verses that help us understand the power of the Word of God:
 - Heb 4:12
 - James 1:18, 21
 - 1 Peter 1:23
 - Ephesians 1:13
 - Romans 1:16; 10:17
 - Luke 8:11,15,21; Luke 11:28
- How do Jesus’ words strike you after reading these verses?

Verses 64-65:

- Read vv.37, 39, 44, 45, 65 again...

Verses 66:

- Jesus drew huge crowds. Many left Him.
- How should Jesus' actions affect what your approach to sharing the gospel?
- “What did Jesus do?”
- Many disciples withdrew or left and walked no more with Him. Did they lose or reject their salvation?

Verses 67:

- “The Twelve”. John almost never used this term - here and in 70,71 and later in 20:24. It is commonly used in the synoptic gospels.
- Any speculation as to why he doesn't use it much?
- If Jesus know the believers and unbelievers, why did He ask this question of the twelve?
- See also Matt 16:15.

Verses 68-69:

- Peter, the unofficial spokesman.
- How do you read these words? Sad or zealous?
- What a beautiful statement of faith! See also Matt 16:16. They believed and they came to Him. See v.35.
- What other real options do we have? Why/why not?
- Worship in Spirit and Truth:
 - Believe (by the Spirit) and have come to know the truth!

Verses 70-71:

- One of them was a devil - accuser/slanderer.
- What do you think about Judas? Do you think he knew he was the one to betray Jesus?
- Branded as a traitor above all traitors, for all time.

Discussion:

- What different kinds of “disciples” do we see in these passages?
- Those that scoff and outright reject Jesus; they will not stay with Him.
- Those that cannot leave. They respond in faith; they come and believe.
- Those that never really believe but will not leave and will one day betray.