



S O A M A Z I N G

GRACE SO AMAZING TO FOLLOW JESUS

Jn. 6:66-71

Jn. 6:66 From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

71 He spake of Judas Iscariot *the son* of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

A few weeks ago, we began looking at this chapter to consider what the Bible says about the different attitudes and motives of the “followers of Christ.” What we have seen so far are the following: Some followed Him due to...

1. the sensationalism of His miracles;
2. simply out of selfishness for what they could personally benefit;
3. some followed Him from a faulty perspective of false supposition;
4. a few followed Him due to a proper understanding of His purpose and relationship with mankind according to the Scriptures.

We saw that the challenge of the storm revealed the hardness of the disciples' hearts in that they neglected to consider the feeding of the 5,000.

❖ **Prior experience of God's blessings should strengthen the believers' resolve to meet other "storms" of life.**

The Lord Jesus was confronted by followers who were "seeking for Jesus" (6:24) and approached Him with several questions:

1. HOW DID YOU GET HERE? WE ARE CURIOUS.
2. WHAT WORKS CAN BE DONE TO MERIT GOD'S FAVOR?
3. CAN YOU GIVE US A SIGN THAT WE CAN SEE, BELIEVE, AND WORK?

- ❖ All of the followers, religious or His disciples, seemed to miss the importance of the feeding of the 5,000. **“Life lessons” should be appreciated and not taken for granted.**
- ❖ Jesus stressed that He “is that bread which came down from heaven.” The manna was eaten by their fathers and they are dead.
- ❖ Jesus concluded by stating the difference between temporality and eternity, physical death or “live for ever” is a personal relationship with Him!

Jn. 6:59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

- ❖ Jesus taught the religious followers in the synagogue, who were in the right place, listening to the world's greatest teacher about spiritual truth, and yet they murmured.

This morning, we continue observing chapter six of John's Gospel regarding the response to Jesus' teaching about Himself being the "Bread of Life" and contrasting His superiority over manna.

- ❖ After Jesus taught about the severity of the cross regarding His suffering in the flesh, many "disciples" had a difficult time rectifying how to apply it to their understanding.

Jn. 6:60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

61 When Jesus knew in himself that **his disciples murmured at it**, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

62 *What* and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

63 **It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that **no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.**

❖ The term “disciples” indicates people were “following His teachings” but it does NOT mean that they were genuine believers – substitute any denominational name, but understand that it doesn’t mean they are those who have eternal life.

Mt. 7:22 **Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not** prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And **then will I profess unto them, I never knew you:** depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

❖ The narrative states that the teaching was “an hard saying; who can hear it.”

Original Word: σκληρός **Transliteration:** skléros

Definition: hard, rough; **Usage:** hard, violent, harsh, stern.

sklērós – properly, hard (because *dried* out); (figuratively) stiff, stubborn (unyielding) describing people who "won't budge" (bend, submit), or what is *unyieldingly harsh*.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4642.htm>

- ❖ The message was too difficult to swallow, even for some claiming to be His disciples.
- ❖ Jesus clarified the importance of the combination of the Holy Spirit with the Word of God's power in order to enlighten and empower, v. 63.

2 Cor. 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

❖ Jesus asked “the disciples” – “...Doth this offend you?” (6:61)

Original Word: σκανδαλίζω **Transliteration:** skandalizó

Definition: to put a snare (in the way), to cause to stumble, to give offense

Usage: I cause to stumble, cause to sin, cause to become indignant, shock, offend.

skandalízō – properly, *set a snare* ("*stumbling-block*"); (figuratively) "to hinder right conduct or thought; *to cause to stumble*" – literally, "to fall into a trap" (*Abbott-Smith*).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4624.htm>

- ❖ Does identifying with Jesus and His cross “offend you” enough to cause you to stumble?
- ❖ When around family, friends, fellow workers, neighbors, and an opportunity arises to be a faithful witness for Christ, do you clam up and are ashamed?

Gal. 6:14 But **God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

❖ Believers should NEVER be ashamed nor offended of identifying with the Lord Jesus.

2 Cor. 5:21 For **he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Rom. 1:16 For **I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ**: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.**

Psa. 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law:
and **nothing shall offend them.**

❖ Jesus chided the murmurers with another
challenging question in 6:62:

6:62 *What* and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up
where he was before?

❖ “If I came down from heaven, I can ascend back up!”

❖ The implication by Jesus is that if this truth offends,
how vulnerable will you be when I return to the
Father?

Jer. 12:5 **If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses?** and *if* in the land of peace, *wherein* thou trustedst, *they wearied thee*, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?

- ❖ If you can't handle the small stuff, what are you going to do when the going gets tough?

Prov. 24:10 ***If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.***

- ❖ The key to spiritual victory is to understand the critical difference between genuine spirituality and religious vanity.

Jn. 4:24 **God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.**

- ❖ True worship must be on a spiritual wavelength, not a religious one, and it must be founded upon the Word of God.

6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; **the flesh profiteth nothing: the words** that I speak unto you, *they are spirit, and they are life.*

- ❖ In His omniscience, Jesus knew who were the true followers and who were the unbelieving phonies.

6:64 But **there are some of you that believe not.** **For Jesus knew** from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

❖ Those who “come unto me” are in a spiritual relationship with the Father.

6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that **no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.**

❖ The capstone example of phony followers of Christ is found in the last verses of the chapter:

Jn. 6:70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and **one of you is a devil?**

71 **He spake of Judas Iscariot** *the son* of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

❖ Judas Iscariot didn't leave when the others did. He went to church, prayer meeting, work day, and was very "religious," but in reality, he was spiritually lost.

2 Cor. 13:5 **Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith**; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Summary

- ❖ Prior experience of God's blessings should strengthen the believers' resolve to meet other "storms" of life.
- ❖ "Life lessons" should be appreciated and not taken for granted.
- ❖ Believers should NEVER be ashamed nor offended of identifying with the Lord Jesus.
- ❖ If you can't handle the small stuff, what are you going to do when the going gets tough?

- ❖ In His omniscience, Jesus knew who were the true followers and who were the unbelieving phonies.
- ❖ Judas Iscariot didn't leave when the others did. He went to church, prayer meeting, work day, and was very "religious," but eternally lost.
- ❖ Today, as in Jesus' day, there are many followers, for many reasons, but only those who know Him will inherit eternal life. (Jn. 14:6)

Conclusion

Rom. 10:11 For the scripture saith, **Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**

12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

13 For **whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

17 So then **faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

2 Tim. 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless **I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed**, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

1 Jn. 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.