



GRACE  
SO AMAZING

GRACE SO AMAZING TO MAKE GOOD  
DECISIONS

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.

Most of the chapter is focused upon the feeding of the 5,000 and how it relates to understanding the importance of the cross.

Heb. 9:22 “...**without shedding of blood is no remission.**”

This morning, we finish 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.

# I. DIFFICULTIES FORCE DECISIONS

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?

❖ Jesus confronted His disciples regarding being offended at the “hard saying.”

- ❖ In the parable of the sower, Jesus warned about those “offended” by “difficult experiences.”

Mt. 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for **when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.**

- ❖ Some “followers” start well but cannot endure any opposition without being “offended.”

❖ Difficult times force various decisions:

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

❖ When difficulties must be confronted, what motivates the direction of the decision?

❖ Ultimately, what defines a hard decision isn't so much the decision itself, but how it is perceived by the decision maker.

## ❖ Decisions are difficult because:

- The perception of the stakes are particularly high;
- Two or more options weigh heavily on the mind;
- The decision brings back unhelpful memories or fears of previous challenges.

❖ The etymology of the word 'decision' provides further insight. It comes from the Latin word *caedere* meaning 'to cut off'.



- ❖ Decisions cut us off from other choices, other opportunities and the possibility of better outcomes. For this reason, the act of deciding can feel like a self-inflicted wound.
- ❖ **Avoiding a decision is in fact a decision.**
- ❖ When faced with a difficult decision, it can be tempting to take the easy road and procrastinate.
- ❖ Procrastination is not the refusal to decide, or to 'freeze' a decision in time, rather it is **the active decision to remain undecided.**

- ❖ Indecision and procrastination do not postpone the pains of a decision to a future day: they multiply that pain by spreading it across every minute of every day, until you finally decide what to do.
- ❖ The confrontation with Jesus forced a decision for the various followers:

Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes **in the valley of decision**: for the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision.

- ❖ A true relationship with God is one of continual confrontations and important decisions.

## II. DECISIONS FORCE DIRECTIONS

- ❖ Many of the so-called “disciples” made a decision to change directions, leave the Saviour, “and walked no more with him.”

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

- ❖ Confronting the “hard saying” forced some to make a decision to distance themselves from Jesus and His truth and go in a different direction less inconvenient.

❖ Immediately, Jesus asked the twelve to make a decision:

Jn. 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, **Will ye also go away?**

❖ The “twelve” just witnessed “many of his disciples” that went a different direction in no longer following Christ. Jesus confronted them with considering the same decision.

❖ Make a choice. What is your decision and the direction you want to go?

❖ Simon Peter expressed the ultimate concern: “Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou has the words of eternal life.” (6:68). “You are the only direction for us to follow!”

- ❖ Simon Peter also expressed the motivation for his decision:

6:69 And **we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.**

- ❖ The direction of Simon Peter and the “twelve” was abide in fellowship with Christ.
- ❖ The expression of faith – “we believe and are sure” – forces the direction of an eternal destiny and continual fellowship with Christ for the true followers.

### III. DIRECTIONS FORCE DESTINY

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.

- ❖ Jesus clarified that a decision to follow Him included “a devil” and “that should betray him” even though he was “one of the twelve.”
- ❖ We cannot judge anyone’s relationship with the Lord but our own. Our focus is found in Col. 3:1-4

Col. 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, *who is our life*, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

## 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.
- ❖ 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)

Jer. 10:23 O LORD, I know that **the way of man *is not in himself***: *it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*

Prov. 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart**; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 **In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**

## Conclusion

- ❖ Consider what the Lord has done for each of us and decide to follow Him!

Deut. 7:7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people:

8 **But because the LORD loved you**, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deut. 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:*

Josh. 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, *choose you this day whom ye will serve;* whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.