

Preserving Faith

John 6:60-71 (Page 77 in the BPB)

November 14, 2021

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Context:

Feeding of the Five Thousand (6:1-14)

The Disciples Cross the Sea and Jesus Walks on the Water (6:15-24)

The Bread of Life Discourse (6:25-59)

The Response to the Bread of Life Discourse (6:60-71)

The Conclusion to John 6:

In John 6 we have been introduced to the crowds, the Jews, and now the disciples and the Twelve. What is the difference between the many disciples and the Twelve?

1. False Disciples vv. 60-66
2. True Disciples vv. 67-71
 - a. Eleven vv.67-69
 - b. One exception vv. 70-71

Verses 60 & 66, “many of His disciples,” form the brackets that hold the first section together.

Verses 67-70, “The Twelve” form the brackets that hold the second section together, followed by John’s commentary of Judas’ betrayal vv. 71.

1. False Disciples (vv.60-66)

⁶⁰Therefore many of His disciples, (see v. 66)

when they heard *this* said,

“This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?”

“Difficult” – “hard,” “offensive”;

“Listen” – “hear,” “understand”

⁶¹But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this,

“grumbled” 6:41-43 The Jews grumbled.

said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble?”

“cause you to stumble” – “cause you to be offended”

1 Corinthians 1:23-24

1 Peter 2:6-8

⁶²“*What* then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?”

“Son of Man” – Daniel 7:13-14; Acts 1:9-11

⁶³“It is the Spirit who gives life;

2 Corinthians 3:6

the flesh profits nothing;

the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

John 3:5-8, 11-12

1 Corinthians 2:14

⁶⁴“But there are some of you who do not believe.”

For Jesus knew from the beginning

who they were who did not believe,

and who it was that would betray Him.

⁶⁵And He was saying,

“For this reason I have said to you, that

no one can come to Me

unless it has been granted him from the Father.”

John 6:44

⁶⁶As a result of this many of His disciples

withdrew and

were not walking with Him anymore.

2. True Disciples (vv. 67-69)

The Twelve have heard the discourse, the grumbling from the Jews and the murmurings from the other disciples, they have seen that many of the disciples have left and the popularity of Jesus is decreasing. What will they do? They are at a crossroad, which path will they choose?

In this section, even among the Twelve, there is a distinction that separates one from the rest (vv. 70-71).

⁶⁷So Jesus said to the twelve,

“You do not want to go away also, do you?”

⁶⁸Simon Peter answered Him,

“Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have words of eternal life.

⁶⁹“We have believed and have come to know

that You are the Holy One of God.”

Mark 1:24 – “Holy One of God”

Matthew 16:13-18 “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (v. 16)

⁷⁰Jesus answered them,

“Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve,

and yet one of you is a devil?” (Matthew 16:21-23)

John’s commentary explaining, “one of you is a devil.”

⁷¹Now He meant Judas *the son* of Simon Iscariot,

for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

Application:

Recognize who Jesus is. Believe in Him.

He is the Holy One of God. He has the words of eternal life.

There is no other to whom we can go for the words of eternal life.

We must persevere by preaching truth to our souls.