

## Lighthouse Bible Church

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

John 6: 60 – 71 *scripture reading Matthew 11: 20 - 24*

‘True or False Disciple’

### Stand – Read – Pray

This passage of scripture is the **response** of all the people who had seen and heard what Jesus had said and done over the last 2 days. These are the people whom Jesus had fed from 5 loaves and 2 fish. These are the people who saw Jesus heal virtually every sickness and disease among them.

These are the people who heard Jesus make the claims that He did about being the bread of life and that He had come down from heaven and that God was His Father and that He was the only way to eternal life and they could only come to Him to have everlasting life if God draws them to Him.

He concluded by telling them that unless they ate His flesh and drank His blood, they could not have eternal life. In other words, unless they took in all of Him through coming to Him, seeing Him and believing in Him for who He is and claims to be, they would not have life in themselves, no eternal life.

All of what Jesus has been saying in John Chapter 6 comes down to this; what are they going to do with the information that Jesus has given to them, both **visibly** through His signs and miracles and **audibly** in His teachings about Himself and the kingdom of heaven.

What are they going to do with that information? He had shown them and told them that without question He was the Messiah, the Son of God, God in human form and now, how are they going to react to that message.

And by the way, there are only two ways to react to that message and that is either in **belief** or **unbelief**. And it is no different than today when Jesus claims to be the only way to heaven, people react the same way. That is why we will see in this passage two groups of disciples, the true and the false.

There are those who were enamored with Christ and what He could do for them, the free food and the intrigue and entertainment of the miracles, but when He began to make demands on their life for obedience and the only way of eternal life, they didn't want anything to do with Him, so they leave Him.

It is like what John wrote in **1<sup>st</sup> John 2: 19** about those same type of followers that were not true disciples of Christ. It says **they went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.**

And there are those who are the true followers, the **true disciples** of Christ who know who He is and believe His words because of His works and know that there is no one else to follow or no other place or person to go to.

We ended last time with Verse 59 and the **location** where this final message of Jesus being the bread of life and coming down from heaven and the only way to the Father in heaven was, and it was in Capernaum.

Jesus had a strong rebuke for the unbelieving people of Capernaum because of their hardheartedness and unbelief in light of all that they had seen and heard. Listen to this in **Matthew 11: 20 – 24** *Read and comment.*

We see this first group of unbelieving, false disciples of Christ starting in Verse 60. They were following Him and believed that He was a miracle worker and healer and provider of food, but they did not believe His words. In other words, they believed His works but they did not believe His words.

Not so much different than people today who believe in Jesus and celebrate His birth and applaud Him for being a good teacher, a miracle worker, a helper of those in need, a man of love. But when He begins to speak to them about their sin and their need for Him as their only Savior or they will be punished in hell for all eternity, they don't want anything to do with Him.

**Verse 60: Therefore many of His disciples when they heard this said 'this is a hard saying, who can understand it'.**

Notice that these unbelieving followers are called **disciples** of Jesus Christ. That is what a disciple is, a follower of someone. The word is *mathetes* and simply means a follower. It doesn't mean the person is a believer or unbeliever, it means that they are just a follower, it doesn't qualify of what kind.

These disciples say **this is a hard SAYING, who can understand it.** They are not saying that 'this is too hard for us to understand', they are saying 'we don't want this saying' 'we don't want to accept what you are telling us'. That word **hard**, *skleros* means **rough, harsh, offensive, intolerable.** The word **understand** is better translated hear, from the Greek word *akouo* used over 400 times in N.T.

In **Verse 61** Jesus **knew in Himself that His disciples complained** so He says **does this OFFEND** you? He knows their hearts He knows what they are thinking, just like for us today.

That word offend is *skandalitzo*, which means to trap, distrust, fall away, stop following, to disapprove. In other words, they are saying, who can stay here and listen to this stuff. They are offended at what He is saying which causes them to fall away and follow Him no more. *WOTM examples.*

What was the saying that was so offensive, harsh and intolerable to them? Well, most everything that He said but in particular when He was telling them that He **came down from heaven** and that **He was the only way to heaven** and it was through the eating of His flesh and the drinking of His blood.

They could accept His works but they **WOULD NOT** accept or believe His words. And when you reject the words of Christ, you reject the salvation that He offers, and that is where these disciples of Christ were at. They were offended by what He said and they rejected it in unbelief. Jesus told the people in **Matthew 11: 6** **blesed is he who is not offended because of Me.**

There are a lot of disciples in the churches of today that believe in Jesus but they don't believe in His word and they don't obey what it says. They are offended when they hear that Jesus is the only way to heaven or that they are a sinner in need of a Savior or that they are accountable for what they say and do. They may stay in the churches for a while, but they eventually leave and usually in anger and say hurtful things about that church.

Jesus says 'does this offend you that I say I came from heaven, from My Father and have the words of eternal life and that you must eat My flesh and drink My blood to have this life'? That is why He says in Verse 62

**Verse 62: What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?**

Jesus says, 'what, you don't believe I came from heaven? **What if you should see Me ascend where I was before?** Would that convince you? If I ascend into heaven, will you believe? He doesn't give them a chance to answer because He knows they wouldn't. And by the way, that is exactly what He is going to do according to **Acts 1: 9 – 11** *Read*. His ascension would be proof of where He came from, so He is alluding to that here. Several times in John He has already talked about coming from the Father in heaven to earth. Then He says in 63.

**Verse 63: It is the Spirit who give life, the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life.**

What Jesus is saying is that it is not My actual flesh that gives life or profits anything, it is the Spirit that gives life, it is not My physical body that needs to be in you, but My Spirit.

He says I need to be in you in order for you to have life. Isn't that what Paul said in **Galatians 2: 20 I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live, yet not I , but Christ lives** (where) in Me... **Colossians 1: 27 says Christ IN YOU, the hope of glory..**

Then Jesus says at the end of Verse 63 **the WORDS that I speak to you are spirit and they are life.** He says that it is My words that are life everlasting. It is not my actual flesh or my actual blood but My words that give life.

It is in accepting and receiving His words where one finds eternal life. You can follow Him all you want but if you will not listen, believe and obey His words, you are not a true disciple of Jesus; and that is what He is saying. Jesus will say later in **John 8: 31 if you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.**

And for us today, it is accepting and receiving His word, the Word of God, the Bible, through His Spirit, where eternal life and salvation are found. When we receive His words, we receive Him. **Romans 10: 17 says so then faith comes by hearing, hearing about Jesus' words, and hearing by the Word of God.**

It is like the parable of the sower in **Matthew 13: 18 – 23** and the one good soil of the heart that hears the word, understands the word, believes the word, is the true genuine convert, the true disciple of Christ that bears fruit.

Jesus told a crowd of people in **Luke 8: 21 My mother and My brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.** As we have been studying 1<sup>st</sup> Peter on Thursday evenings, Peter says in **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible THROUGH the word of God which lives and abides forever...**

When someone is offended by the words of Christ and the Word of God or they try to explain it away or deny its claims, they too show themselves to be a false disciple of Jesus Christ, to be an unbeliever. Look what Jesus says in Verse 64

**Verse 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 would betray Him.**

Those who are offended by His words and reject His words and His offer of everlasting life do so because they do not believe, they lack true saving faith. They would not receive His words that are spirit and life because of their unbelief, not because they don't understand.

Then John makes this incredible statement in Verse 64 **for Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe...** Jesus knew all along who would believe in Him and who would not because He is God. He knew from the foundations of the world who would be His children and who would not believe.

He not only knows collectively who would not believe in Him, from the beginning of time, He knows each individual person who would not believe, who was, and is and will be a false disciple. He even knew, from the beginning, the ultimate example of a false disciple **that would betray Him** and as Verse 71 says, it was Judas.

The reason Jesus adds ‘**and who would betray Him**’ gives everybody the greatest example of the greatest false disciple of all times. Remember, the book of John was written about 40 years after the death of Jesus, so the people who are reading this now are looking back. And when they look back, they see one very vivid example of a false disciple in Judas Iscariot.

One whom Jesus knew would betray Him but no one else did. He played his part well. He was voted the treasurer, He went out with other disciples, he sat under the teaching of Jesus for 3 years. He saw all His miracles and heard all His teaching and yet was in it for all he could get out of it.

He held the money bag and was stealing from the treasury because of His greed. His motive was to see Jesus overthrow the Roman government and destroy the current political system. He too was enamored with the power that Jesus had to walk on water, to heal people to raise the dead.

Then all of a sudden, Jesus starts talking about going to Jerusalem and dying at the hands of the Roman government. He talked about turning the other cheek, He talked about humility and sin and judgment to come. He talked about His death burial and resurrection and placing one’s faith in His finished work on the cross.

Now all of a sudden, Judas doesn’t like what he is hearing and he begins to question what Jesus is really saying and doing until ultimately he abandons Jesus and turns Him over to eventually be killed, and he does it for 30 pieces of silver. He wasn’t even suspected at the final Passover meal as being the one who would betray Jesus. All of the disciples said ‘is it I’.

You want to know something, there are a lot of Judas’ even today. Those who have ate the bread and drank the cup at communion, those who have sat under the teaching of the Word of God for years and yet they would betray Jesus with a kiss. They are the ones Paul warned about in **Acts 20: 29 – 30**.

They are the ones who feign worship and fellowship as they sing praises to Him and yet their heart is far from Him. They hypocritically profess Christ while in their works and words they deny Him and they, like Judas, lift up their heel against Him.

Judas becomes the example of what these people, to whom Jesus is addressing now, are right now, false disciples, false followers of Christ tired of following Him because He is now making demands on their life that they don't like or believe.

That is why Jesus says in Verse 65.

**Verse 65 and He said 'therefore, I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.'**

Jesus knows who the Father has given to Him, He knows those whom the Father has chosen, He knows those whom the Father has drawn to Himself. He knows all of those who will come to Him and those who won't because of their unbelief. And then this sad but all too often commentary in Verse 66.

**Verse 66 from that time, many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.**

You see, false disciples can't follow when the demands are that high as to 'take up your cross and follow Me' or that 'I am the bread of life' and 'the only way to heaven' and 'you are lost in your sin apart from trusting Me as your sin bearer'.

What they wanted, Jesus would not give and what He offered they would not receive'. *FF Bruce the Gospel of John pg 164.*

That is why John said ‘they go out from us, but they are not of us, for if they had been of us they would have continued with us but they went out that they might be made manifest that none of them were of us’.

No different today. Eventually, the false disciple of Christ will get tired of what they are hearing and not getting what they are wanting and they too will leave. It is always hoped that they don’t leave a wake of destruction in their path when they do leave. So Jesus asks the true disciples in Verse 67

**Verse 67 then Jesus said to the twelve ‘do you also want to go away’.**

The impression is that everyone that Jesus was talking to had gone back and followed Him no more, leaving just the 12 standing there. So He turns to them, the only ones apparently left because He designates them as **the 12**, and says to them **do you also want to go away?**

Jesus had just finished feeding all the people, healing all the people, teaching all the people and offering Himself as the bread of life and the way to eternal life and they didn’t want it, they refused it, they turned away from it in unbelief and hatred and left Him. Then you hear the somberness in the question ‘do you also want to go away’.

And you want to know something? They wouldn’t go away and they couldn’t go away because they were the called, the elected, the chosen, the drawn by God that would never, permanently, turn away from Jesus as the others had. Look at Verse 68 – 69.

**Verses 68 – 69: But Simon Peter answered Him ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the WORDS of eternal life. Also we have come to BELIEVE and KNOW that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

What an incredible response from Peter on behalf of the others. That is the proper response of a true disciple, a true follower of Jesus Christ based on what they have seen and heard from Jesus.

A true disciple of Jesus **believes** the **words** of Jesus that lead to eternal life and that are a cause for an obedient Christian life. It is faith in Christ that leads to obedience to Christ and His words. Didn't Jesus say in **John 8: 31** **that if you continue in My Word, you are My disciples indeed.**

**Verse 69** says that **they came to BELIEVE and KNOW** who Jesus was. Remember in **Matthew 16: 13 – 17** where Jesus asked His disciples 'who do men say that I am' and they answered Him. And then He asked them 'who do YOU say that I am' and Peter answers the exact same way as here '**you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God**'. And then Jesus says in Verse 17 **blessed are you Simon bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**

You cannot believe and know Christ apart from God revealing Him to you through His Spirit and His words. A true follower of Jesus, a true disciple of Jesus is one whose heart has been prepared by God to hear and believe and they respond to that hearing and believing with repentance and faith.

Peter said that they believed that He was the **Christ**, the Messiah, written about in the Old Testament because of all they had seen and heard from Him testifying to who He was. Peter said we also believe that you are **the Son of the living God**, you are God in human form. That is what it takes to be a true disciple of Christ.

But just so they don't think that what will happen to Him by the hand of Judas, was unplanned or somehow not known to Him, He says to them in Verses 70 and 71.

**Verses 70 – 71 Jesus answered them ‘did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.**

Jesus knew who would betray Him, verse 64 said, and now He is identified here as Judas Iscariot. Again, this is written after the fact, so he is looking back and filling in what they did not know at the time.

Jesus chose the 12. This is not the sovereign choosing of salvation He is talking about, this is His sovereign choosing of the 12 disciples to train in ministry, and one of them **is a devil.**

Jesus says, I’ve just been talking to all of these people and they have left because they are false disciples and I just want you to know that you have been deceived by one of your own, the ultimate false disciple.

Jesus said I chose him and he is a devil, but He did it that the scripture might be fulfilled, right. He is the one that **Psalm 41: 9** said **even My own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate My bread, has lifted up his heel against Me.** **Zechariah 11: 12 – 13** said Judas would betray Him for 30 pieces of silver.

Jesus also said in **Matthew 26: 24: The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would have been good for that man if he had never been born.**

In **Acts 1: 25** it says that **Judas, by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.** A place reserved in the blackness of darkness for the one who was the ultimate false disciple, a devil, a pawn in the hand of the devil Himself.

Out of all of those hundreds of thousands of people initially by the sea of Galilee that ate the bread and fish, that were healed of all kinds of infirmities and diseases, that heard the teaching of Jesus about the way to heaven and who He was, only 12 minus the son of perdition, only 11, were the true followers and disciples of Christ.

And these true disciples of Jesus Christ, **Acts 5: 28 filled Jerusalem with the gospel message of Jesus Christ** and in **Acts 17: 6** it says **they turned the whole world upside down.**

And if those 12 could do that, then just think of what so many of us here can do today.

My question to you today is; are you a true follower, a true disciple of Jesus Christ because you have heard and believed and known Jesus Christ and His Word and in faith have repented of your sin and put your faith and trust in Jesus and your life is now one of a desire to obey His word out of love.

Or are you just a disciple of Jesus but not a true disciple because you just go through the motions of church and worship and religion but inside you chaff against being told that you are a sinner in need of a Savior or you don't believe the Bible is the Word of God or that you believe only the good things about Jesus that appease your emotions and feelings using a religious avenue to satisfy you.

Listen, no one else here may know what is going on in your heart but God does, and His desire is for you to turn from your sin, lay down your pride and humble your heart and partake of the bread of life that alone can satisfy the hunger and thirst of your soul.

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Introduction and Review:

1<sup>st</sup> John 2: 19, Matthew 11: 20 – 24

Verses 60 – 61 The hard saying that offends  
Matthew 11: 6

Verse 62 What if you see Me ascend to heaven  
Acts 1: 9 – 11

Verse 63 The Words I speak are spirit and life  
Galatians 2: 20, Colossians 1: 27  
John 8: 31, Romans 10: 17, Luke 8: 21  
Matthew 13: 18 – 23, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 23

Verse 64 There are some who do not believe  
Acts 20: 29 – 30

Verses 65 – 69 His disciples walked no more with Him  
John 8: 31, Matthew 16: 13 – 17

Verses 70 – 71 for it was he who would betray Jesus  
Psalm 41: 9, Zechariah 11: 12 – 13  
Matthew 26: 24, Acts 1: 25, Acts 5: 28  
Acts 17: 6

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