



FACE-TO-FACE "DO YOU WANT TO GO AWAY AS WELL?" | JOHN 6:60-71 Pastor Mark Owens

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" ⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵ And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." ⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." ⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." ⁷¹ He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him." - John 6:60-71

"Do you want to go away as well?"

When the mission gets hard, what are you going to do?

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹ Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum." - John 6:53-59

Being confused is not the same as being confronted by Jesus.

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"Hard" (*sklēros*):

- Harsh
- Difficult
- Offensive
- Demanding
- Severe

"This is a hard teaching to accept. This demands too much."

"Saying" or "Word" (*logos*)

- Message
- Teaching
- Word

"Who can listen to it?" (*akouō*)

- Hear
- Receive
- Obey
- Accept

"Who can accept this teaching? Who can live with what Jesus is saying?"

Truth does not confuse; truth confronts.

Conviction, not convenience, leads to discipleship.

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" -John 6:66-67

Biblical conviction:

- Believing God's truth enough to obey it, regardless of the cost.
- A settled confidence produced by God's Word and the Holy Spirit.

Preference says...

- "I'll follow Jesus as long as I like where He's leading."
- "I'll obey if it's convenient."
- "I'll stay if I agree."
- "I'll follow if it benefits me."
- "I'll worship as long as it meets my needs."

Conviction says...

- "I may not understand everything, but I know Jesus is Lord."
- "Even when obedience is difficult, Christ is worthy."
- "Even when culture disagrees, God's Word is true."
- "Even when following Jesus costs me something, He is worth it."

When sin becomes convenient it becomes an idol.

Our response proves our commitment to God's mission.

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."
- John 6:68-69

My relationship with Jesus is worth so much more than anything I will leave behind.

Proximity to Jesus without submission does not lead to a missional life.

Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil."⁷¹ He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.
- John 6:70-71

While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him."⁴⁹ And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. - Matthew 26:47-49

Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.²² On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?"²³ And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness." - Matthew 7:21-23

Many people admired Jesus.

Some followed Jesus.

Only those who surrendered to Jesus received eternal life.

The question Jesus asked the Twelve is the same question He asks us today:
"Do you want to go away as well?"