

A Hard Call to Follow 2019-06-09

John 6:65-71

He said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to Me unless it is granted him by the Father."

After this many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?"

Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray Him.

Ministry is tough: start John 6= 10-20,000 followers @ end only 12 with 1 a traitor!

- Jesus' words not His works offended and drove away ...still true.
 - Easy to follow a simply benignly tolerant Jesus of love who helps folks but not Lord who calls to deny self daily/ pick up cross & follow Him. John 6:60-66

Disciples of convenience: attracted to Jesus because of His miracles, healings, deliverances, compassion and personal gain/comfort.

- Jesus works did not offend them but made Jesus desirable to follow.

When Jesus teaching conflicted with strongly held beliefs they left Him.

- Claimed equality with God (deity John 6:42), their unworthiness and need for Savior, unconditional election (John 6:37, 44, 65), eternal conscience punishment.
 - Today culture also conflicts with Word so leave Jesus: LGBT, purity, abortion
- Word defines truth and right/wrong not culture, false religious beliefs.
 - Especially careful for misinterpretations of Word...."Jesus OK with homosexuality"

Must submit to hard truths in Word if in conflict with culture or personal belief.

- "Hard" not mean hard to understand but hard to accept.
 - knew what Jesus saying but unwilling to deny self/pick up cross and follow Him.
 - "ascending" probably events leading to exaltation in heaven...cross. Luke 14:25-33 Mark 4:5-6, 16-17
- If Master suffers/dies, they may experience same rejection, persecution, death.
 - When understood cost (cross/comfort) they left.

Not go after: knew was sovereignty of God over unbelief. John 6:65-66, 70-71, 37, 44,

- not respond positively not due to preacher (Jesus) or message (Gospel).
 - Offer was free: not penance/good works, just believe for eternal life.

- not believe because can't believe: God must call/draw to faith in Jesus thru Holy Spirit.
 - Come: Father drew (not deserve), not come: left in rebellion (deserve)
- not conflict with our choosing and freely coming because we want to come.
 - Have choice, held responsible for choice. But salvation of Lord.

“The Bible does not teach the absolute inability of men to come to Jesus. It teaches the absolute inability of men to come apart from Jesus, but it teaches the ability of men to come through Jesus.”

S. Lewis Johnson

Embracing God's sovereignty in election produces humility, thankful, assurance (keep to end Romans 8:30), hope for lost (can't resist), glory to God!

- Trusting in God's sovereignty in every area of life can bring strength and hope when feeling everything out of control and devil winning. John 10:18
 - Judas in ranks by God's choice to do His bidding - Satan not in charge
 - Jesus tells ahead about Judas so disciples understand He was not a victim of circumstances but Victor, a volunteer.

Day ends: Most false disciples of convenience walk away, true stay. John 6:67-69

- Not know what's coming for Jesus/them but willing deny self/pick up cross and follow.
 - Came down to believing what Jesus said. Faith comes by hearing.

Call to self-examination: lead to salvation or further sanctification/holiness.

- Turn away from Jesus because of hard truths, difficult circumstances, disappointed expectations.
 - What put your faith that won't fail.....Nowhere else to go.
- True satisfaction now/eternally only in Jesus Christ. He alone words of eternal life.
 - He will enable to deny self daily/pick up cross and follow Him.