

Deserting Jesus

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #22)

John 6:60-71

A. John 6 is an extended series of questions and answers

1. "How did you get here?" (Where have you been?) (6:25-27)
2. "What should we do so we do the works of God?" (6:28-29)
3. "What are you going to do to prove your trustworthiness?" (6:30-25)
4. "Lord can you please give us this bread?" (6:34-35)
5. "How can this human - this flesh and blood person, Jesus - claim to be heaven-sent bread?" (6:41-42)
6. "How can Jesus give us his flesh to eat?" (6:52)
7. "Why is Jesus' teaching so hard to take?" (6:60)
8. "If this offends you, what will you think when the Son of Man ascends into heaven?" (6:61-62)
9. "Others have left, would you also like to leave?" (6:67-69)
10. "Didn't I choose you...?" (6:70-71)

THE OFFENSE (6:60) (Question 7)

A. What was it that Jesus said that even offended his disciples?

1. Was it the constant speaking of his "coming down from heaven?"
2. Was his constant references to "I AM" - basically saying he was God
3. Was it the multiple references to "eating my flesh" - sounding cannibalistic
"Lord, please always give us this bread?" (6:34)

B. Jesus' Bread Sermon occasioned a massive loss of disciples

THE OBSTACLES (6:61-66) (Question 8)

A. Jesus starts asking questions: "Does what I'm saying offend you?"

1. Jesus adds another claim: "I will ascend into heaven!"
2. If you think my claims are outrageous, wait until you actually witness them
"And when I have been lifted up, I will draw all persons to myself" (12:32)
3. The Church believes in Jesus' incarnation, birth, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension and so acknowledges God validates everyone of Jesus' self-assertions

B. In 6:63, Jesus says our human nature/flesh is impotent of all the things of God

1. Jesus' words bring God's Spirit: "My word brings the life-giving Spirit" (TEV)
 2. The lesson: Keep Christ's Words in Circulation!
 3. Be filled with his words and so be filled with his Spirit
- ## C. Jesus acknowledges not everyone believes in him (cf. Matthew 13:1-23)

D. Our human coming to Jesus is dependent on a prior and sovereign divine coming of the Father to us

"Every person the Father is giving to me will come to me and the person coming to me I will not in any way push away" (6:37)

"No one can ever come to me unless the Father who sent me shall have first drawn that person to me, and I will raise that person up on the last day." (6:43-44)

"This is why I said no one can come to me unless the Father draws them" (6:65)

1. The Father is in complete control of the world mission of Christ's Church
 2. The "drawing" isn't always so gentle (cf. Acts 16:19; John 21:11)
 3. So "there is a coming for keeps and a coming with conditions"
 4. Jesus seems unfazed by defection; it is what he expected and predicted
- ## E. John notes "from this time on, many turned back and no longer followed"

1. The place of a disciple is behind Jesus - subject to his Lordship
"If anyone wants to accompany me, that person must deny oneself" (Matt. 16:24)
2. Seven of the saddest words: "and never walked around with him again"

THE OWNERSHIP (6:67-69) (Question 9)

A. Jesus addresses the remaining twelve: "You don't want to go too, do you?"

B. Peter responds: "Lord, there aren't any other good alternatives"

1. If the crucified-risen Jesus is not God's gift/Word to the world, where is there a more credible option?
2. We must discover - as Peter did - "You have the words of deep lasting Life, and we have come to believe and so to know that you are the Holy One of God" (6:68b-69)

THE OMINOUS (John 6:70-71) (Question 10)

A. Jesus asks a poignant question: "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve?"

1. Jesus often ends his addresses with a warning
2. Here Jesus warns disciples about Judas's denial: one of the Twelve will fall

B. One of the twelve, Jesus says, was a "devil." Jesus knew.

1. After a very encouraging message by Jesus, this is very sobering fact
2. It is no doubt designed to keep disciples on their toes and on their knees