



THE TEXT/SCRIPTURE

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.

⁶⁰ 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. ***Jn 6:53–71.***

BACKGROUND / SETTING THE STAGE

Just before the passage, Jesus was found on the other side of the Sea of Galilee among a crowd of over 5,000 hungry people who had been listening to Him speak. After miraculously multiplying a boy’s lunch of 5 loaves and 2 fish into a feast to feed the crowd (and still have leftovers), Jesus heads to the other side of the lake only for the crowd to follow him. Realizing the people were mainly



following him for the fish and loaves ([Jn 6:26](#)), He ups the stakes by compelling them to seek the true Bread of Life which came from heaven which was He himself (6:42). He goes even further and says whoever drinks His blood and eats of His flesh will live eternally (6:59). It's at this point that the scriptures say, "many of his disciples turned back and followed him no more."

The latest Christian statistics say there are 210 million Christians in the United States, but recent surveys reveal that only 2 out of every 10 are willing to make changes in their life as a result of the scriptures.

DISCUSSION

1. Why might the disciples have abandoned the miracles and popularity associated with Jesus?
2. What was it about the commands that Jesus gave this crowd that made so many people no longer desire to follow Him?
3. Why did some of the people consider what Jesus said as "hard sayings?"
4. Why were some followers of Jesus "offended" by Jesus' requirements?
5. Can you be a disciple of Jesus without following all of his teachings?
6. What do you think hinders many people from accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior?
7. What qualifies a person to be a Christian?
8. Is it difficult to live a Christian life?

GOING DEEPER

Some people walk away from Christianity, abandoning their commitment to Christ, however, most of the turnover is people moving from church to church or never committing to walk with Jesus because they have reduced their relationship with God down to mere "feelings." Our emotionally focused society has produced a significant number of "sensual" Christians, whose faith in God is



governed primarily by how they “feel” about God. The problem is that Jeremiah tells us [Jeremiah 17:9](#) “9 The heart (*the seat of our emotions*) is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”. In essence, the prophet is saying that the very feelings (heart/emotional center) is deceitful and can betray you!

DISCUSSION

- a. If you can't rely on your emotions or “feelings” as a method of determining truth, how can you determine if Jesus's teachings are worth following?

Much of what the scriptures say that Jesus tells us to follow are considered imperative statements or “commands”. These imperative commands are like a mother, who upon seeing her toddler running towards a street full of traffic, tells her child to stop. The toddler stops because the child determines that the mom has given the child a command and not simply a suggestion.

Often when you talk to Christians who “feel” some pull to surrender their lives to Christ or make changes to their current living, they approach the call to draw near to God more like a dinner invitation (suggestion) than a fireman's command to exit a burning building (command) . Despite the fact that God gives us the choice to choose Him, it doesn't diminish the fact that He is calling you or “commanding.”

READ: Matt 16:24-27 and Rev 22:17 and Luke 9:56-10:1

DISCUSSION

- Is there a difference between “coming to Jesus” versus “Following Jesus?”
- What factors disqualified the potential disciples in Luke chapter 9?
- Will people go to hell because they have not perfectly followed the teachings of Jesus?

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

Staying the Course When

WALKING AWAY IS AN OPTION

