

In The Beginning Was The Word

John 6:60-71

INTRODUCTION: MANY DISCIPLES DESERT JESUS

⁵⁹ These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

From verse 59 we can understand that this was a time when Jesus was teaching about eternal life.

Jesus often went to the Jewish synagogues to teach. His teachings were not from things that he had learnt, neither was it from others who had taught Him. Jesus teachings were His teachings. In other words Jesus words were and still are the very Word of God.

People would marvel at the knowledge that he displayed, and at the words that came forth from His mouth.

Even when Jesus was only 12 years old he spoke with wisdom beyond any mans capability.

In Luke 2 we see this account of the Lord giving wisdom to men who thought they had wisdom.

Luke 2:46-50

⁴⁶ And it came to pass, that after three days **they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.**

⁴⁷ **And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.**

⁴⁸ **And when they saw him, they were amazed:** and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

⁴⁹ **And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?**

⁵⁰ **And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.**

1. Even at this very early age Jesus wisdom was far beyond that of man.
2. His age was not a limiting factor to place Him equal with God the Father.
3. Jesus already at that age of 12years, said that he was busy with the work of His real Father, which is God the Father, but the people could not understand it at the time.
4. Even His earthly mother Mary, could not understand this. The bible says she kept all this saying in her heart. Luke 2: ⁵¹ And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

- So here was Jesus as the bible says in Luke 2:⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

So here is Jesus in the synagogue in Capernaum teaching.

With his audience being mostly Jews, he was probably teaching them from the OT, and reminding them about the **Torah**.

1. *The Torah* or what is often translated into English as Pentateuch, is the central concept in the religious Judaic tradition. It is commonly referring to the first five books of the bible in the OT.
 2. *The OT is commonly referred to as the **Tanakh*** consists of twenty-four books: it counts as one book each Samuel, Kings, Chronicles and Ezra-Nehemiah and counts the Twelve Prophets; literally "twelve") as a single book.
 3. The teachings now at Capernaum carried the same truth as when he was only 12 years old.
 4. The Lord knew then as much as he knows even now. In other words the Lord Jesus has and still is all knowing. There is no beginning and no end to His all knowing.
- The message that came from the lips of our Lord Jesus to those Jews must have left them with bitterness towards Him.
 - They must have heard a message that did not match up to their own expectations.
 - They wanted a king who could protect them in battle, and a king who could provide for all their needs.
 - Instead they got the truth about their spiritual condition.
 - The Lords as he told them tells us today, he has come to see and to save that which is lost.
 - [Luke 19:10](#) For the Son of man is come to **seek and to save** that which was lost.

Now this morning we get into our text at this very point in the Lords message at Capernaum.

John 6:60-71.

⁶⁰ **Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?**

1. First of all I would like to point out that these were follows of Jesus.
2. A disciple is a person who has heard the Word of the Lord before, and has made a conscious decision to follow after God. In this case they previously had made this decision to follow Jesus, who said to them in no fewer words that he was God.
3. These were disciples that Jesus had made, in a sense he had taught them in the scriptures and they followed him.
4. It does not mean that they all followed him for the very same reason. Not at all.
5. It does not mean to say that you are a follower of Jesus, that you will remain faithful to him for as long as you shall live?
6. The scripture in verse 60 says that they were "many of his disciples".

The fact of the matter is this.

- When they had heard what Jesus had just said to them they found it hard to bear.
 1. They could not appreciate that Jesus was God incarnate in the flesh.
 2. They could not also believe that the claim Jesus made in these verses (verse 53-5). Were possible or even true.
- Their reply to Jesus as he taught in Capernaum was this. **“This is an hard saying; who can hear it?”**
 3. In other words, they were saying they could not believe what was being said, such as claiming that God was also His Father.
 4. This in other words was “unbelief” on their part.
 5. This resulted in a large majority of the disciples not believing in Jesus.

⁶¹ When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

1. Again we see Jesus who is God, is all knowing.
2. Here we see that Jesus says, that he knew within himself that the disciples were murmuring at what he had just taught.
3. Verse 61 tells us again that it was his disciples who had murmured.
4. Therefore Jesus said unto them, does this truth offend you?
5. Truth always offends people when it goes against their sinful freedom.
6. If people are truly in Jesus Christ, they will not be offended. But sadly here they were not truly committed and so were offended because it went against their sinful freedom. Sinful freedom is also practicing a religion that excludes Jesus Christ and His deity.
7. Every sin needs to be confronted and this was the case when Jesus confronted them as they held the Lord as an offence to them.
8. Whenever we go against the Lord that is sin.

⁶² What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

1. Having spent so much time with the Lord and seeing so many miracles, they should have know Jesus by now to be who he said he was, the Son of God.
2. But yet that was not the case.
3. As the Lord Jesus confronted the Jews and his disciples he asked them this question again. **“What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?”**
4. The Lord had just been teaching them that he is the “bread from heaven”, so a question like this was not a trick question.
5. Instead it was a question which contained its own answer. The answer was already what he had been teaching.
6. The question was really to remind them, that they had hardened their heart so much towards him that they would in fact see his ascension again and it would not even affect them or change the way they viewed him.

7. This verse also continued to remind the disciples and the Jews, that Heaven was His real place where he came from the Father. This was again a claim to His place in the God head as well as His equality as God with His Father.
8. A man who has hardened his heart, leaves little room for the Spirit of God to work.

⁶³ It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

1. The Lords focus had not for one minute turned from the fact that these people need to believe to be saved.
2. Despite their hardness of heart, the Lord continues to deliver his message. Some would receive whilst others would reject. That is always been the case.
3. Jesus lets them know that the flesh can do nothing for salvation. It is the spirit of man that needs to be changed.
4. The Lords tells them that the words that he speaks are the very words which can make the spirit in you change. He reminds them that the words that he speaks is life.
5. God's word is spiritual and it needs to be understood in the spiritual sense because his word is life. Jesus spoke with his own words of wisdom.

⁶⁴ But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

1. The fact of the matter is that no matter how many people receive Gods word of salvation, there will always be the skeptics who will not believe for whatever reason.
2. Jesus knew who would not believe, but yet he still gave them the opportunity to hear the same message. So that they would be without excuse.
3. The Lord also knew who would betray him. (see Romans 1:19-21)

Romans 1:19-21

¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; **so that they are without excuse:**

²¹ Because that, **when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful;** but **became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

4. Betrayal of the Lord is also part of unbelief.

⁶⁵ And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

1. The right of salvation is given by God the Father.

2. The entrance into Gods kingdom has an access control mechanism.
3. When God the Father gives the right of salvation it is on access by His son Jesus Christ to enter the heavenly realm.

Matthew 10:32-33

³² Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. ³³ But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

- To Deny the Lord is to turn everlasting life into everlasting spiritual death.

Revelation 3:5

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name **before my Father**, and before his angels.

1. Because nobody can come to the Father but by Jesus Christ our Lord.
 2. It appears from this verse that the Lord Jesus has the power to strike out a name in the book of everlasting life if a person eventually denies Jesus Christ.
 3. This verse appears to finalize salvation at the point of death. It is at that point that a person can be judged as one who has overcome or not overcome in holding Jesus as their savior.
- It is astounding to think that there are many people who think that they are going to be in heaven when they die, based on a decision that they have made, and yet they may or may not live like the devil. But to think that they have made a decision to eternal security is sufficient for them. But what about the way they treat the Lord from then on with their lives. They deny the will of God and yet expect salvation because they say so.
 - Check out this scripture which condemns that way of thinking. (Matt 7:21).

Matthew 7:21

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

- The will of the father is that we will come to His son and believe on Him for eternal life, because he has paid the price for our transgression.
- Look what Jesus himself said about salvation. (Matt12:50).

Matthew 12:50

For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

- Jesus said in this verse that **whosever,** that means whoever, Jew or Gentile Bond or free, murderer or criminal, can come to him for salvation provided that they do the will of the Father, which will is to serve and acknowledge His Son for salvation.

⁶⁶ **From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.**

1. I don't believe it was just these previous verse of John 6:50-59 which made the Jews and his disciples turn their backs on Jesus.
2. I believe it was because they were not prepared to change their way of life and accept Jesus as their true God and Savior.
3. I believe this was the straw that broke the camel's back, like so many people who have confessed Christianity and come to churches before, and only to see them at some time turn their backs on all that they have seen and learnt of Him.
4. You know when you turn your back on God, it is the saddest moment in your life, and it is the saddest moment in the Lords. Look how the angels rejoice when a person comes to Christ. Can you imagine how they feel when people turn their backs?

Luke 15:7

I say unto you, that likewise **joy shall be in heaven over one** sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Luke 15:10

Likewise, I say unto you, **there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.**

5. When they turned their backs on Jesus they were in unbelief, which meant that they did not have salvation.
6. The verse tells us that they **“walked no more with him.”**
7. They had chosen to be out of fellowship with the Lord Jesus permanently. The verse says they walked no more with him.
8. Be careful not to get caught up in a crowd. A crowd can lead you astray and rob you of the blessings of the Lord. Just because people stop following Jesus or stop going to church does not mean that you should stop also.

⁶⁷ Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

1. The Lords closest disciples which he had handpicked to follow him were also there that day as usual. They had heard exactly what the Lord had preached on and had possibly come to their own decisions as well.
2. Remember the Lord knew their heart and he knows ours also, but yet he posed the question to them publicly for all to hear anyway.
3. He wanted them to speak up so all the Jews and those other disciples who had left Him would also hear their decision.
4. Therefore the question was to the inner 12 disciples. **“Will ye also go away?”**

⁶⁸ Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

1. When things get difficult in our lives we should always asked ourselves this very same question. It will help us to see the focus in our lives as to what is the most important thing.
2. Brave enough was Simon Peter who was the first to speak out.

3. Jesus knew that even in His closest ranks there was someone who would deny Him, therefore he addressed the situation and spoke out as He did with that question.
4. This was meant, that for even Judas who would deny Jesus, to have a second chance at correcting that decision he had made in his heart.
5. The Lord always gives everyone an opportunity to repent, but that window of opportunity does not mean that it will come again. We need to take heed of that opportunity and do something with it before it is too late. And that opportunity is to repent and believe.

As Peter answered he answered with the truth.

1. There is no other place to turn to, or to go for salvation.
2. Peter declared for all to hear that Jesus had the words of eternal life.
3. By Peter's declaration he was declaring Jesus to be God.

⁶⁹ **And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.**

1. What was said in verse 68, is now confirmed in verse 69.
2. Peter spoke as one for the whole group of 12. But he never had any inclining about Judas' heart. Sometimes it is difficult for us to see how faithful a believer is and this is what Peter missed. But Jesus knew that already.
3. Peter for sure had acknowledged Jesus as the Son of God.
4. Jesus is referred here as the Son of the living God.

⁷⁰ **Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?**

1. With regards to Peter's answer to Jesus' question as to who will go away.
2. Jesus answered for not just Peter's benefit who thought that they all had the same belief and opinion about Jesus.
3. But Jesus points out several things here in His response to Peter's claim.
4. Jesus firstly acknowledges that even though he had asked these 12 disciples to follow Him. It was not a mandatory choice.
5. Jesus shows that even if a person is called to follow, unless that person responds individually you cannot make them do so.
6. Jesus points out that even though he chose all of them, he recognized that even one of them could reject him, and in fact this was the case.
7. Jesus points out for us that even though people follow in the beginning it does not guarantee a perfect ending.
8. But like the Apostle Paul says, it's not how we begin but how we finish the race that counts more than anything else.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

⁶ For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

⁷ **I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:**

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

9. Even though you may start out shaky in your Christian walk with the Lord, it may not always be that way. The important thing to remember is how you will end up during that time. Will it be a lifelong event of trying to serve Jesus and the Father better, or will it be a life of just plain sailing.

10. For the Apostle Paul, it was about serving God his whole life.

11. The Apostle Paul described his walk with the Lord in 2 Tim 4:7 as⁷ **I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:**

- For the Apostle it was keeping the faith till then end of his days. That's the example that Jesus was trying to get through to the Jews and His disciples.
- The Lord gave His 12 disciples a warning as well fact that he knew who it was that was going to betray him. And here it was. Verse 71.

⁷¹ **He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.**

1. At this particular time even though Jesus was talking about Judas Iscariot who would betray him, he did not mention his name.
 2. The only fact that Jesus mentioned was that one of them was a devil, because it was going to be one of them who would ultimately betray him.
 3. This fact, should have left them with a great deal to think about, especially Judas.
 4. The stark reminder is that Judas did nothing about it. He never took the consequences into account seriously and the rest is history from the scriptures.
 5. He ended up selling the Lord short, and resulted in him taking his own life for the guilt he had taken on.
- The opportunity has been given to each and every one of us today.
 - To either follow the Lord truly, or to pretend.

What will our decision be, now that we know the Lord. Will we be encouraged to press on, or will we falter.

PRAYER.....CLOSE