

Sunday, May 17, 2009

Sermon Based Discussion. Sermon Title: Building Your Life on Jesus' Words

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Sermon Series: Building Your Life on Jesus (Part 2); Sermon Text: John 6:60-71

## INTRODUCTION

Many people believe Jesus is a wonderful teacher and moral leader. But some of those same people will find much of Jesus' teaching hard to accept—maybe even downright offensive. How does Jesus address people who find his teaching hard to accept? Does he help us see that actually, his teaching isn't really that offensive, or does he do something else? We'll see a story about just this question in this session.

## OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Many people would say that Jesus was a brilliant teacher or a great moral leader. What are parts of Jesus' teaching that most people would admire or agree with?
2. What are parts of Jesus' teaching that some people might disagree with have a hard time accepting?
3. In the sermon, Enoch pointed out three points that Jesus' hearers had a hard time accepting based upon all of John 6.

First, they had a hard time accepting Jesus is God come down from heaven. (John 6:35-38)

Second, they had a hard time accepting Jesus came to save them primarily from their sins, and not from political, military, or social problems. (John 6:15)

Third, they had a hard time accepting that they as sinners were so bad—bad enough such that Jesus had to actually die for them. (John 6:53-56)

Do people have a hard time accepting one or more of these truths today? What do people find hard to accept?

Getting Into the Passage. (Read John 6:60-66)

1. Jesus knows that people are grumbling and offended about his hard-to-accept words. If Jesus himself had many grumblers, what should his followers expect today when they attempt to preach and practice his words?
2. How does Jesus address the fact that many find his words hard to accept? For example, does he try to make his teaching more acceptable?
3. What's the basic point Jesus is making in verses 61-63? In other words, what are the implications of not accepting Jesus' words about himself and eternal life?
4. What happened to many of the so-called followers after they found his words hard to accept? What does that suggest about the true state of their hearts?
5. According to the passage, how does a person come to accept the words of Jesus?

## GOING DEEPER

Jesus clearly states that only those who the Father grants may come to accept Jesus' words. If that's the case, what can anyone do? Well, the Lord has seen fit that people will come to accept Jesus' words as they reflect on Jesus' words by the power of the Spirit. Consider the 5 truths this passage gives us to meditate on as we consider turning to/from Jesus. (Recall that the first 3 points are especially helpful for those who are considering Jesus, and the latter 2 points are especially helpful to those who already follow Jesus. But all 5 points are vital and practical for all!)

- i. If others turn away from Jesus, what will we do?
- ii. If you were to turn away from Jesus to something else, what would that be?
- iii. Whatever you could turn to, will that fulfill your need for forgiveness of sins and eternal life?
- iv. If you continue to follow Jesus, remember that he chooses you.
- v. Just because someone is following Jesus today, it might still turn out that they never truly believed.

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Talk about these points.

If you're not a Christian, then do yourself a favor and really consider: what is better than Jesus? What is worth more than eternal life? If you are already a Christian, ask God to keep you faithfully abiding in him, and reaffirm that there's no one else who has the words of eternal life than Jesus.

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

[Peter answered to Jesus,] "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:68-69, NIV)

## John 6:60-71

<sup>60</sup>On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

<sup>61</sup>Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! <sup>63</sup>The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. <sup>64</sup>Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. <sup>65</sup>He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

<sup>66</sup>From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

<sup>67</sup>"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

<sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

<sup>70</sup>Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" <sup>71</sup>(He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

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