

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

August 13, 2017

John 6:60-71

READ

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QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. "His disciples" seem to fall into some very unseemly categories.

- vv. 60-66
- vv. 64,70-71

Does this raise any concerns or questions in your mind? What else does Jesus say about this reality (Matthew 13:24-30)? What are the implications of this?

2. Two different phrases draw attention to the challenge presented by Jesus: "difficult statement" (v. 60) and "cause you to stumble" (v. 61). The former is literally a hard word; it creates discomfort. The latter is from the word for a stumbling block; a hindrance, obstacle or roadblock. Such obstacles can be intentionally placed in your path (Romans 9:33). Can you identify a time when you encountered something in Scripture, or your walk with Christ, that seemed to be uncomfortable or discomforting? Something which was an obstacle or roadblock? How did you deal with it? What did you learn from it? Contrast your handling of it with how these "disciples" handled it.

3. What is the reaction of "His disciples" to Jesus and His teaching (vv. 61, 64)? What is the relationship of these two reactions (Deuteronomy 1:26-33; 9:23)?

4. What would seeing Jesus ascend to where He was before (v. 62) mean to an unbelieving heart? What do Jesus' words accomplish (v. 63) for an unbelieving heart? (What do they accomplish for a believing heart?)

5. How does this passage describe Judas Iscariot (vv. 64, 70-71)? Is there anything here that sheds new light on how you see him?

6. Reflect on Peter's two statements about the Lord—
 - "You have words of eternal life" (v. 68)
 - "You are the Holy One of God" (v. 69)

7. Reflect on Peter's two statements about the disciples (the twelve)—
 - "Lord, to whom shall we go?" (v. 68)
 - "We have believed and have come to know . . ." (v. 69)

8. What is the source of the disciples' belief (v. 63; Romans 10:17)? How did that differ with the majority of "His disciples" who withdrew and were not walking with Jesus anymore? How does that impact your faith?

9. Within a very short time—perhaps as little as 24 hours—Jesus' popularity balloon has burst. Based upon chapter 6, discuss what may have been behind Jesus' popularity implosion.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

1. When I encounter something hard, and feel like turning back, I will . . .

2. I will keep belief/faith & knowledge in the proper order by . . .