The Gospel of John
**X.X – To Whom Shall We Go – JOHN 6:64-71**

**GREETING**

**Happy New Year and welcome to the first Sunday of the new year, 2022.**

**LET’S hold up our Bibles (our Swords) and make our Bible Declaration**

**We are resuming our verse by verse study of the book of John. LET’S OPEN OUR BIBLES TO JOHN 6:63-71**

**TEXT**

John 6:63 (ESV) **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.

John 6:64–71 (ESV) **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?” **68Simon 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.

**INTRODUCTION & REVIEW**

As you can see, I have the privilege of closing out our study of John chapter 6, the longest chapter in the book of John. John 6, begins with Jesus journeying to the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee/Tiberias.

What would appear at the beginning of John 6 to be a great success – **crowds growing**, **miracles flowing**, **disciples multiplying** – our text reveals that by the end of the chapter we are left with not much more than the original 12 disciples. The crowd and other disciples were not driven away by a storm or by persecution but, I hate to say this, by the words of Jesus.

**John 6:41–42 (ESV)** **41**So the **Jews** **grumbled** about him, because he said, “I am the **bread** that came down from heaven.” **42**They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘**I have come down from heav**en’?”

**John 6:52–53 (ESV)** **52**The **Jews** then **disputed** among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” **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**.

**Not just the crowd of Jews or religious leaders had problems with what Jesus said but his disciples did as well:**

**John 6:60–61 (ESV)** **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?

***Disciples - 3101***. **μαθητής** **mathētēs (ma thay taste)**; from *3129; a disciple*:—disciple(26), disciples(233), disciples’(1), pupil(1).[[1]](#footnote-1) – a student, pupil, learner

***Hard*** - ***4642***. **σκληρός** **sklēros**; from **σκέλλω** **skellō** *(to dry); hard, rough*:—difficult(1), hard(2), harsh things(1), strong(1).[[2]](#footnote-2) – scandal ---

The question is was it hard to understand or hard to accept? You see Jesus explained the metaphor of eating and drinking earlier:

John 6:35 (ESV) **35**Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever **comes** to me shall not hunger, and whoever **believes** in me shall never thirst. *– to eat his flesh is to come to Jesus and the drink his blood is to believe in him.*

**In our text at the close of John 6, Jesus addresses 3 groups of people:**

1. **The many disciples (followers) who turned back in versus 63-66.**
2. **The 12 disciples who stayed in versus 67-69**
3. **The one disciple who stayed in appearance but not in heart 64, 70-71**

**The many disciples who turned back in versus 63-66.**

**Some were seeking the wrong thing**

**63 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

**John 6:26–27 (ESV)** **26**Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because **you ate your fill of the loaves**. **27Do not work for the food that perishes**, but for the food that endures to **eternal life**, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” - Not that we do not need food that perishes but it comes with the eternal

**Some were not willing to hear and believe**

**64 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** **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.”

*The Father grants or gives to those who are willing to respond or are willing to be drawn.*

**How does the Father draw? John 6:44-45 (ESV)** **44**No one can come to me unless the **Father who sent me draws him**. And I will raise him up on the last day. **45**It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be **taught by God**.’ Everyone who has **heard** and **learned** from the Father comes to me

People are drawn by hearing and learning but some rather than **hearing and learning**, **want explanations and understanding before** believing.

For I do not **seek** **to** **understand** in order that I may **believe**, but I **believe** in order to **understand**. – **early church Father**

By His **sovereignty and foreknowledge** The Father gives to the Son all those who will respond to the Son

**Romans 8:29–30 (ESV)** **29**For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30**And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

**John 6:37 (ESV)** **37**All that the **Father gives** me will come to me, and **whoever** comes to me I will never cast out.

**66** **66**After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

They went back to their old ways of life – this is not a sprint but a marathon

**Some go back because they were never in: 1 John 2:19 (ESV)** **19**They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But **they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us**.

**Others go back but do not give up: John 21:3 (ESV)** **3**Simon Peter said to them, “**I am going fishing**.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

**The 12 disciples who stayed based on Peter’s confession of faith in versus 67-69**

**67**  **67**So Jesus **said to the twelve**, “Do you want to go away as well?”

**68-69** **68Simon 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.”

1. To whom shall we go – recognition that there is no one or other place to go
2. Remembered not to forget the main thing – eternal life
3. Do not let what you do not know keep you from living what you do know
4. Believe and Come to know (understand) – Seek first to believe
	1. Deuteronomy 29:29 (ESV) **29**“The **secret things** belong to the Lord our God, but **the things that are revealed** belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

**(Judas) - The one who stayed in appearance but not in heart 64, 70-71**

**64 64**…. (For **Jesus knew** from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would **betray** him.)

**70–71**  **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

* **~~Jesus Prayed about the 12 including Judas: Luke 6:12–16 (ESV)~~****~~12~~**~~In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued~~ **~~in prayer to God~~**~~.~~ **~~13~~**~~And when day came,~~ **~~he called his disciples and chose from them twelve~~**~~, whom he named apostles:~~
* **~~Jesus allowed Judas to carry the Moneybag: John 12:4–8 (ESV)~~****~~4~~**~~But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said,~~ **~~5~~**~~“Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”~~ **~~6~~**~~He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.~~ **~~7~~**~~Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial.~~ **~~8~~**~~For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”~~
* **Jesus washed Judas’ feet: John 13:2–4 (ESV)** **2**During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him, **3**Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist.
* **Jesus warned Judas at the last minute: John 13:26–28 (ESV)** **26**Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. **27**Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.” **28**Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him.
* **~~Kiss: Luke 22:48 (ESV)~~****~~48~~**~~but Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?”~~

What is shocking is the way Jesus treated Judas despite knowing he was a thief and a betrayer. Jesus reached out in and with love even to an enemy knowing he would not respond.

**Jesus said**: **Luke 6:35–36 (ESV)** **35But love your enemies**, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and **your reward will be great**, and you will be **sons of the Most High**, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. **36**Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

This is an example for sons (daughters) of the Most High

**ALTAR CALL**

1. Thomas, R. L. (1998). [*New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nasbdict?ref=GreekStrongs.3101). Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Thomas, R. L. (1998). [*New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nasbdict?ref=GreekStrongs.4642&off=1&ctx=+~4642.+%CF%83%CE%BA%CE%BB%CE%B7%CF%81%CE%BF%CC%81%CF%82+skle%CC%84ros%3b+from+%CF%83%CE%BA%CE%B5%CC%81%CE%BB%CE%BB%CF%89+s). Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)