

# Will ye also go away? A deep Question for His people

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**Bible Text:** John 6:67; 1 John 5:20  
**Preached on:** Sunday, October 9, 2011

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Let's begin our day in prayer.

*Dear heavenly Father, most gracious and holy Lord, I praise thy name this morning, Lord. I thank thee for thy faithfulness to bring us here on a day, Lord, that thou hast opened the heavens. Thou hast blessed us with the rain to replenish the earth. We thank thee, Lord, for that blessing. We thank thee, Lord, for thy safety that you have brought us here in. And, Father, we pray that we would not be content with just being here this day, but, Lord, you would open up our hearts and our souls and our minds to come away from this world with so much would burden us this day. Lord, bring us, bring us to thy feet. Open up thy holy Word, Lord, for thy Word is life to thy people. Lord, I pray that thy Word would be sent this day in the two fold way that thou would intend it, to be a comfort to those, to stir up those for whatever purpose, Lord, that thou art please to bring. And, Lord, may you make us to sit at thy feet, to see thy sovereign hand over all things. Lord, I pray thy anointing to be upon me this morning. Lord, keep my mind stayed upon thee and may you use these lips to speak forth your truth for the glory of thy name and thy name alone. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

You ask the children in the room the methodology that I used almost every morning as I see smiles in the room already to teach the children it is usually in question form. I thought about that long and hard as there has been jokes made about that, as they always laugh when they say, "I am going to start today with a question."

It started to sit with me and the Lord started opening up my eyes to how many times he used questions in the Word of God. I had to think about that. Why? In the methodology of teaching and in the sovereignty of his teaching he would use questions. And the questions was all... usually and almost all the time to a mixed people. Even in his own disciples it was a mixed people. It was the sheep and the goats there. But yet it was the same question that went to both groups.

So I have to surmise and I have to be brought to the point that the Lord Jesus Christ used questions in two different ways. For the reprobate he revealed what they were outside of him. The questions would be maybe not searching to their soul, but they would be illuminating from the fact that there would be nowhere for them to hide from their sin.

There would be nowhere for them to hide as the Lord would put forth a question and they had no answer for him. But for the child of God what are these questions for? And why do these questions come? Because we can come to the Word of God and we can look at all of the questions that Jesus asked and we can start putting them in categories. We can say, “Ah, he asked these to the goats. He asked these to the sheep. He asked this question to a non believer,” but all the questions in this holy Word is for the sheep. And there is a purpose behind his questions. And the questions that Jesus would ask is for one reason. It was to reveal something in the child of God. And that something is experience. The questions that Jesus would ask that he would send to the soul would be just for that, to reveal if there is something in you, if the love of Christ is there, if the faith of Christ is there, if Christ himself is there. That is the point of his questions. And ultimately the child of God is brought to see that the questions are out of love. He questions his children not to question them as apart, are you a part of me or not? But out of love, to show them and to reveal them the experience that they have had in Christ Jesus.

What good would they be if it didn't reveal that, if the Holy Ghost did not use the question of Christ and use the words of Christ and send it to the very soul of the elect child of God?

When I was brought to this understanding of questions and looking into why everything, why Jesus used questions, the Lord in his faithfulness since then keeps dropping down a question. And it is a searching question and it was a searching question that he used to the disciples and he gave to the disciples and he used it many times for me. He has used it many times in the last two or three weeks. When I am angry, he sends the question.

“Will ye also go away?”<sup>1</sup>

When I am fearful he sends the question.

“Will ye also go away?”<sup>2</sup>

When I have unbelief and I am sitting there trying to work things out in myself, the Lord would bring down his question:

“Will ye also go away?”<sup>3</sup>

And I had to think about that and at first when the question started coming it was very condemning to me. I started looking and I said, “Lord, where did you use this in the Word?”

And then I went and found it and then I looked at the surrounding passage, why it came and that is what we are going to look at today. But that question, it is found in John six verse 67.

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<sup>1</sup> John 6:67.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

“Then said Jesus unto the twelve...”<sup>4</sup>

And that is very important. He addressed this question to the 12. And, as I have said, it had a two fold meaning. To the 11 it meant something. To the one it would mean something.

“Will ye also go away?”<sup>5</sup>

And there are many places to go. When we are fearful we run to fear. We run to what would comfort us in temporary comfort whatever it is, and whatever situation it is. We take comfort in words of others. We take comfort in the situation if we hear that maybe there is a mercy coming in that situation. But will you also go away? It keeps ringing in my ears.

And I wonder if the Lord has ever asked that question to you or have you come to this question and said, “Yeah, this isn’t for the child of God. He is not asking the child of God that is kept by grace and that is saved by grace, will you also go away, because, I mean, Paul said... there is no way that we can go away, is there”?

But yet we do. We go away from him every day. We go away from him in our doubts. We go away from him in our anger.

My wife and I concluded a couple of weeks ago the study of Jonah. And that is a very humbling book, because as the book ends the prophet sent of God is asked that question. He is asked:

“Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd?”<sup>6</sup>

And to us it sounds like a really ridiculous question. It is a gourd. He had nothing to do with the gourd. It was the sovereignty of God’s grace and mercy to give him the gourd. But Jonah got so angry when it was removed and he looked up to God and he answered God and he said:

“I do well to be angry, even unto death.”<sup>7</sup>

And you know that is how that book ends. We don’t like that. We like happy endings. We like when we see the child of God is reconciled. We like when the Lord sends down his repentant hand and he brings that and he nurtures that child of God and he brings him, but it... there is a reason why it ends that way, because you and I know what it is like to be at the end of that rope and to look up and say, “Yes, Lord, it does do me well to be angry.”

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Jonah 4:9.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

We may even hear the words of a loved one who is gently exhorting us. “Why are you so angry about that?”

“Because I am.”

“Why is it that you don’t believe? Why don’t you see Christ?”

“I am not going to see Christ.”

We have this hardness and this rebellious nature in us. And that unbelief rises up so prevalently in the child of God’s life. And when the Lord sends this question to your soul:

“Will ye also go away?”<sup>8</sup>

It is a searching question. Have you experienced going away from Christ and what did it bring you? Did it bring you joy? Does it bring you comfort when you can’t see him? Does it bring you a security when you run away in fears and you run away in sin and you run away as the prodigal did? Does it bring you a peace in your soul?

This is a very searching question, as I said. It is a question that we are going to look at how we got here to this question. And, of course, we look to the remedy of the question.

So if you will turn with me back over a page, well, it is a page in my Bible. We are going to start in verse 59.

“These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.”<sup>9</sup>

What things did Jesus just teach? What things did he just teach this group of people that came to him? And will just begin by reading 53.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”<sup>10</sup>

There is actually people who believe that has something to do with baptism. I hope you don’t take the... Not baptism, but the Lord’s supper. If you don’t take the Lord’s supper, see, you are condemned. That is what Jesus means here. Oh, no.

“For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> John 6:67.

<sup>9</sup> John 6:59.

<sup>10</sup> John 6:53-54.

<sup>11</sup> John 6:55.

Fifty-seven says:

“As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.”<sup>12</sup>

What is Jesus teaching? That there is no life outside of him, that everything for the child of God consists in Jesus Christ, that he is life. And when it says he is all in all, that means in every situation, in every place that we go, in everything that we do, Christ is life, because if he is not we go away. We go away from everything that Christ is.

If we go to our job and Christ is not our life and all of everything that comes into our day is not filtered through the Lord Jesus Christ by his Holy Spirit, then what good is it? We go away.

“Will ye also go away?”<sup>13</sup>

We go away to ourselves. We go away to our self sufficiency. We go away to our self righteousness. We go away to our self will. We have all these self-isms that are so resident in the old man and it is a comfortable place for us to be. We sit there. We mire there and we sometimes we run there, because where the Lord’s sovereignty is is not a place we want to be.

“This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.”<sup>14</sup>

The Lord Jesus Christ is telling them he is the bread that came down from heaven. He is telling them that he is the Son of God. He is telling them that all life consists in him and everything outside of him is dead. He is a savor of life unto his children. He is a savor of death unto those outside of him. And there is no in between.

But experientially, experimentally, experiencing this the child of God goes through both sides. He goes through what it is like to be death outside of Christ, but Christ never moves. We have never lost our position of being safe and secure in him. But yet sin, or unbelief in all of these ways that we find in life to go away from Christ leads to death.

I hope it leads to death of self. I hope it leads to mortification. I hope it leads to the shepherd coming to break that leg and to show you that wandering that far is not a good place to be. It is very unhealthy for your soul.

These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> John 6:57.

<sup>13</sup> John 6:67.

<sup>14</sup> John 6:58.

<sup>15</sup> John 6:59-60.

They are his disciples, though. Does that bother you? Does that bother you that there are many that confess the name of Jesus Christ today that profess to be his disciples? Does it bother you that the Lord will reveal in a few moments that those are false professors? Does it bother you that Jesus didn't come and save every man? Does it bother you that there are some that would walk with him for a while professing to be a Christian? And when Jesus said, "I am the Son of God that came down from heaven," it was a hard saying to them? And that when the Lord said that you have to eat of me, you have to consume me, I must be your life, but the onus isn't on the sinner. It is him telling the sinner, it is him telling you that he is life, that he is the giver of life.

Don't think this is something you have to do. How can you? And we are going to see that. How can you live upon Christ each day? We are enjoined to do so. How do we do that? How do we stay in the straight and narrow walk? How do we not be angry unto death? How do we not have any fear? How do we not not believe? How do we do those things or not do those things?

That is all in part of Jesus' teaching today and I pray in humble dependence upon the Holy Spirit that the sends that down to your soul. He sends it down to you today, because this is a hard saying. It is a hard saying to say that you have no part in your salvation. It is hard to natural man. Oh, no, if I just believe. No. That is a damnable thought. If I just do more for Christ, if I just have more works... You know, the Lord is up there keeping score.

Does it offend you? Is it a hard saying that Christ is life and that he doesn't need you to be life? He doesn't need your hand to procure life. He doesn't need your hand in the salvation plan that the triune God has made before the foundation of the world. That is a hard saying.

And, bless God, bless him for the honesty that the Holy Spirit brings out here, because he is the discernor of all men's thoughts.

Some of you may be sitting in here today saying, "Hey, that is a hard saying. And what you have to say up there is a hard saying, too, because it is my actions that tell me I am a child of God."

Is it? Is it your profession? Is that what you hang your religious life on? Is that what you hang your... everything hangs on who you say you are?

These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them...<sup>16</sup>

Note, again, another question.

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<sup>16</sup> John 6:59-61.

“Does this offend you?”<sup>17</sup>

Now he already knows that they are murmuring and he already knows that they are offended and he already knows that it is a hard saying and they are starting to grumble against him, but he brings it out again.

What is the purpose? To condemn those who don't believe. But there are those there that it is a hard saying to. There are those there that the Lord is plowing their hearts now. And the Lord says to them, “Does this offend you?”<sup>18</sup>

And if it does, does it offend your old man today? It should. It should offend that dead one in you that wants to work everything out himself, who wants to be dependent upon himself, that wants nothing to do with Christ until he is ready to bring Christ into his life. That is an old dead...

“Does this offend you?”<sup>19</sup>

A searching question as the crowd there is sitting there and Jesus had all of these words to say. But then he says something remarkable, because, you know, the religious world that followed him around is no different than the religious world today. It is the same thing. Show me a sign. Show me, Lord, that this is where you want me. If you just show me this, I will follow you. What a lie.

Have you found that to be true in your life? The Lord shows you something and then you just walk down the path of righteousness of the Lord's righteousness the rest of your life. Is that how it goes? Is that how you just stay on that path? Oh, the Lord showed me a sign and I have never deviated off that path again.

The Lord asked another question and this one is a very indicting question in verse 62.

“What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?”<sup>20</sup>

“What if I was to leave right now and ascend up to my Father? I said I am the bread that came down from heaven. It offends you. It is a hard saying that you must... that I must be your life, that everything that comes forth from your life must radiate and come from my life, because I am the light of all men, all saved men. Does that offend you? But what if right now, what if I ascended up into heaven? What if at this very moment as all of you are standing there and you are all partaking in the teaching, would this prove to you that I am the Son of God?”

And we are sitting there, “Oh, yeah, yeah, that would really prove it.”

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<sup>17</sup> John 6:61.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> John 6:62.

Well, what about all the miracles? What about Lazarus come forth from the grave? What about the healing of the withered hand? What about the water to the wine? What about all of these things that Jesus did? Did it change the heart of man? No. Would it change your heart today? Would it give you a new heart today? No. If you saw a miracle, would you believe? No.

And that is what Jesus is saying. That is his question that he is bringing it out. What can you do without me? Later in this precious book he will tell his disciples that.

“Without me ye can do nothing.”<sup>21</sup>

This is the beginning of that plowing of the heart and the soul and a dependence on self. And the Lord is bringing this question to say, “You know, if you saw me just get up to heaven right now, you still wouldn’t believe.”

And he is leaving them there with that question and all of them are sitting there thinking, well, you know, maybe that would do it for me. Because I wouldn’t murmur anymore if I saw you ascend up into heaven. I would believe. That is all it would take is another sign.

Jesus said:

“An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign.”<sup>22</sup>

And what do we see today? Everybody wants a sign. Prove to me this. If you show me this, I will believe this. Nothing is done without show me because it is a world that lives without faith. Faith is the gift of God.

Show me your numbers. Show me the gym you have in your church. Show me all the people you bring in. Show me how they are nice to each other. Show me how they get along. You show me that and I will know that God is present there.

Really? Will you seek him?

“What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?”<sup>23</sup>

Would this convince you? Would this make you believe?

And then the Lord says something that today man just still fights against. Natural man hates it. The old man totally rejects it and the whole religious world looks at it and says, “I don’t believe that either.”

Jesus says in 63:

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<sup>21</sup> John 15:5.

<sup>22</sup> Mathew 12:39.

<sup>23</sup> John 6:62.

“It is the spirit that quickeneth.”<sup>24</sup>

It is the Spirit that gives life, because, yes, you could see me go into heaven and you have seen me do these miracles and you have seen me heal and you have seen me cast out devils and you have seen all of these things and yet you still don't believe me.

That is the hard thing. That is the hard thing for a minister, because I know the Lord has convinced me that this is true. I know that he has convinced me that the words of this holy Scripture is his Word and that it testifies of the Lord Jesus Christ and that there is no life outside of him and that there is no rest for the child of God who keeps picking up his arms to fight in this life and to fight for his salvation. There is no rest there.

And to try to explain that, that it is the Holy Spirit that quickeneth, it is the Holy Spirit that ... what do you think the answer to Jonah was? Does it do you well to be angry? Yes, even unto death. And it will stay in that spot until the Lord sends the Spirit, until the Spirit says, “Thou art the man,” and he applies the repentant love of the Lord Jesus Christ and he sees his sin and he cries out unto the Lord to be forgiven of that sin. It is the Spirit that quickeneth. No miracle you see, no preacher you hear, no nothing that is of man will ever give you life. For what you see with your physical eyes will convince you that you need life.

“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing.”<sup>25</sup>

All that we work out, all that we concoct in this life, all of the ways that we try to devise for an easier life, all of the ways that we devise even for a healthier life, believe me, I know that. All the things we do, we still are in total dependence upon the Lord's blessing. And, you know, he brings his children there to see that. And they may kick against the goads for a while and the Lord will show them. It is the Spirit that quickens.

How do you not know this? It is the Spirit that teaches. How do I not lay down my arms and my anger and my impatience? It is the Spirit that quickens. The flesh will profit nothing.

“...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”<sup>26</sup>

There is no growth. There is no growth in grace and the knowledge of the Lord without the Lord. There is no understanding of his Word without the Spirit. And the Spirit as he applies it, that is where life is. He started this by telling them that he was life and that ... and that to consume him is life. How do I do that? How do I keep...?

You don't.

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<sup>24</sup> John 6:63.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

And you say, “Well, I rebel against that because I am a, you know, I am human. I can do these things. I have got some power.”

What do you have? What do you have that wasn't given to you? If you are a child of God, you know that the power you were given to become one, was a power from above. It was a gift from above. It was the power of the Holy Ghost that quickened you who were dead in trespasses and sins and made you alive to see that Christ...

It is an amazing thing. It is quite a paradox that when the Lord shows you where life is, death is right there with it. But it is death to you to live unto Christ. It is death to your thoughts. It is death to your righteousness. It is death to your will. It is death to yourself. And the life of Christ comes in to the child of God. And it is applied and it is worked out and it is shown by what? The quickening power of the Holy Ghost. Your flesh will never profit anything.

And the words that the Lord says I speak, they are spirit and they are life. But it is amazing. They are not spirit and life to every man, are they? In fact, they are fighting words. They are words, as you will see people get so angry and they won't walk again anymore.

What do you mean I have no part in it? Well, I don't want no part in that [?].

We have seen that, haven't we? We have seen some join and come into these doors and they will hear that message and they will leave. And they will say, “I don't want no part of that,” because, after all, if there is nothing left for me to do, then I am just a robot. I don't have any... there is nothing for me to... why live?

Well, you missed the whole thing, didn't you? Because life is in Christ and Christ is in his children. And his children are in him.

“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not.”<sup>27</sup>

Now I venture to say that there was both on both sides of the fence at that moment that didn't believe, those that would be saved by grace, that it was not their appointed time to believe and then there were those that were the goats that will never believe. They will never believe because they were never elected. They will never believe because they were not in the plan of salvation before the foundation of the world.

And Jesus said, “There are some of you that believe not.”

And that is the thing. When the minister of God comes to the pulpit and he speaks, he knows that is an absolute gospel fact. There are some that don't believe. There are some that you come and you preach and you want so badly for the Word of God to come down to their soul. You want the power of the Holy Ghost to wake them up, but it is not his

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<sup>27</sup> John 6:63-64.

time. It is not his way that day. And it may not be. And we are brought to sit at the sovereign feet of the sovereign Lord.

“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.”<sup>28</sup>

You think that he is only talking about Judas there? No. We talked a few Sundays back about how many times we have betrayed the Son of God in our lives. There is so much unbelief. That is why I said the Word of God to the child of God it is not black and white. It is not that is who they are, that is who I am. The words that the Lord spoke, they are life to the child of God. And even hearing that in your soul, there are some of you that believe not.

He tells the child of God that because of love to show and reveal us that ... reveal to us who we are and our total dependency upon him and his life and his quickening Spirit and his words.

Because there is many times we don't believe and there is many times we betray him with our fear. There is many times we betray him in our duties, in our own righteousness and that is how we started.

“Will ye also go away?”<sup>29</sup>

These words seem to be so easy. It is, ok, he is talking to a mixed people and it is true he is. But does the child of God throw out the words of Christ? Does he say, “Oh, these have no meaning to me?”

No. He brings them to the soul of his children to see if there be an experience of him in their soul. This is what living upon Christ is. Have you experienced it? Have you experienced the unbelief? Have you experienced the betrayal? Have you experienced him bringing you back to you and showing and correcting you out of love and showing you that you walked in a wrong way?

You see, Jesus knew from the beginning. Oh, yes, he did. Beginning long before you and I were here, long before this world was here, long before this earth was here. He knew. He knew from the beginning who they were that believed not and who should betray him.

And he said unto them the same thing he said in 44 except he had a little extra part in that. But he said...

“And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me.”<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> John 6:63.

<sup>29</sup> John 6:67.

<sup>30</sup> John 6:65.

Do you hear what he is teaching? Does a child... Are you sitting there as a lamb? Do you hear the voice of the shepherd saying you can't come? You can't come? You can't come unless I draw you? Listen to what he says.

“... no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.”<sup>31</sup>

This is how you know. Have you ever come to Christ in this way, not bold and not pronouncing who you are and oh, I am a child of this, I am a child of that. Look at what I have done for God. Look at my merits. Look how many years I have lived in this land. You know, I could have walked that way, but I didn't go that way. You know, I have done this for you, Lord, I have done that for you, Lord.

Is that what your life is built on? Have you ever experienced the soul work of the words of Christ?

I use that word a lot, experience, because that is what his words is for, to show you. Is it a lifeless profession? Some in here may be sitting here today saying, “This is Greek to me. I have no idea what is being talked about here.”

I see this as them on the outside, him on the inside. I am one on the inside. So what does it matter? Does it matter? Does it matter if the Lord uses his questions in your soul to see if his work is there? It is the refiner. It is the one that removes the dross to show us what still remains in us. And what a loving Lord to do so, because as he pulls it up and he reveals it, he kills it and he shows us that is not the way and he shows and reveals that it is sin and he puts it down. And he sows us most importantly that it is forgiven and that it has been removed as far as the east is from the west.

Have you experienced that?

“... no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.”<sup>32</sup>

Divine election. See, the Lord Jesus Christ is the dividing line. And he will separate the sheep from the goats because he knew from the beginning who they were. And he will certainly know in the end. And there won't be any in between. Oh, it is a hard saying. Who can hear it?

It is a hard saying to know that these words and these questions, does this offend you, comes to the soul of the child of God.

And then verse 66 reveals to us what Jesus lived in in his time and the time we live in now.

“From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.”<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> John 6:66.

His disciples. It is amazing how that words is in there. It doesn't say many of the heathen, many that wanted to kill him, many of the Sanhedrin, many of the Sadducees, many of the Pharisees. No. It says many of his disciples, the professed his name. They professed to be a part of him. They professed to be him being their Lord.

Something happened that day. The Lord took all the crutches of humanity away from the men there. He said, "If you are going to rely on that, you have nothing. It is the Spirit that gives life. It is my Word that gives life. It is me that you must live upon."

That was a hard saying. And many went back and followed him no more.

How true that is and how sad that is, sad fro the standpoint that the Lord stood in front of them and revealed to them that he was the Son of God and no natural man could come to him not one man could save himself even in the very moment of salvation being in front of him.

That is a humbling thing. That is a very humbling thing.

And after all of that has been said we come to our question.

"Then said Jesus unto the twelve..."<sup>34</sup>

Twelve again.

"Will ye also go away?"<sup>35</sup>

And that is our question today. Do you find yourself in this place? Do you find yourself going away from Christ in unbelief and being offended? Do you find yourself going away from Christ and in your experience? Because, if you do, I am right there with you. I know what it is like many times over to go away from Christ. And there is a reason he asked this to the 12. Eleven of them, the Lord knew the 11 that were kept. They were saved before eternity, before the foundation of the world. They are saved. They are not going anywhere. You don't think Christ knew that? So why did he ask. Why did he ask:

"Will ye also go away?"<sup>36</sup>

It was out of love to show the child of God what he is capable of and what he Lord saves him from.

And then I want you to see something and I know I can't make you see it. In verse 68 something astounding takes place.

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<sup>34</sup> John 6:67.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

“Then Simon Peter answered him...”<sup>37</sup>

You know the one we are talking about, right? The denier, the one who will deny Christ three times, the one who will curse his very name, the one that when asked three times do you even know him, will say in great anger, “No, I don’t. No, I have nothing to do with that man. Get him away from me.”

Later on we will see him, well, earlier than that he draws a sword to cut off an ear. Why? Because he found at that time that he could do something. Later on, as we heard in brother Paul’s message, he will ask the question, “What about this other one? What is he going to do?”

That is Peter. That is a picture of ourselves. And if you don’t see that, I feel sorry for you. I pity you if you see yourself not as much a sinner as Peter is.

But I want you to see Peter’s answer here. Peter’s answer is astounding. After hearing everything about Peter and Peter’s fallen nature, listen to the answer Peter has and you tell me where he got it.

“Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord...”<sup>38</sup>

First of all, Lord. After seeing all of that and all of these... now listen. He just saw the masses of people walk away from Christ and won’t walk with him anymore. You know, there is safety in numbers. That is what I hear. I mean, all those people must have it right. They are leaving him. This can’t be the Son of God. But Peter says this. What makes Peter to differ? You think something is great in Peter? We have already discussed who Peter is.

Sovereign grace. Do you want to know what made Peter to differ? He was kept. You want to know it is the Spirit that quickeneth? You want to see what the Spirit does?

“Lord, to whom shall we go?”<sup>39</sup>

I tell you something. It took a few times being questioned this week and the last couple of weeks, this question:

“Will ye also go away?”<sup>40</sup>

It took a few days before the Lord sent the next question for my soul.

“Lord, where shall I go? Lord, you have the words. You are eternal life. You are who I need, who I must feed upon. You are life, Lord. Where can I go? Whom shall we go?”

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<sup>37</sup> John 6:68.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> John 6:67.

I have been in that experience where I have looked in the world. I have been in that experience where I have looked in man. I have been in that experience when I have looked in myself. Where can I go? Because everyone of them will fail me.

“Will ye also go away?”<sup>41</sup>

Is the Lord using that to bring Peter to the work of Christ in Peter?

“Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ...”<sup>42</sup>

You are the anointed. You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

And I promise you something. If Jonah was God’s child—and I believe he was—he was brought here, too. And everyone of us who question the Lord’s providence and everyone of us that are safe and secure and kept in him, oh, how precious when he sends his power. Oh, how glorious when the Spirit quickens. This is a truth known only to the child of God. Where will I go? I have learned in the school of Christ that there is nowhere else to go. Where will I go? You have the words of eternal life. And we believe.

See, Peter is a little off here because he is speaking of the 12.

“And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.”<sup>43</sup>

The only place we are going to—and we will come back here in just a moment—at the very end of 1 John chapter five verse 20.

Look at verse 20.

“And we know that the Son of God is come.”<sup>44</sup>

This is the power of the Holy Spirit revealing and giving us the knowledge of Christ. And do you know what that knowledge is? Now I want you to try to find the human creature here. You are not going to find it. It is all about him.

“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding.”<sup>45</sup>

Because we don’t have it without you. We don’t have an understanding that you teach us through these questions and that you try us through the experience of life. We don’t know that without you.

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<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> John 6:68-69.

<sup>43</sup> John 6:69.

<sup>44</sup> 1 John 5:20.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true.”<sup>46</sup>

This is what the child of God has. This is why Peter was kept. This is why Peter didn't walk with the masses. This is why the others didn't walk with the masses. One probably did want to walk with the masses, but he had another appointed hour.

“...that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ.”<sup>47</sup>

This is the union revealed to the child of God. And do you know how he does it? Through the experience of him in your soul. You will not make it in this life without the Lord's light in your soul revealing how Christ has worked. That is how you know that you are in him.

It is not some notional thought and just, oh, yes, I am in him. Yes, I am a child of God. Yes, I am... let those flippant runners run wherever they want to. Let those little pie in the sky people go in today's religion. Let them go. This is a feeling place. This is where Christ leads his children to feel the power of him in their soul.

“...that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”<sup>48</sup>

This is eternal life. In Jesus Christ, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

You say, “Wow, Lord, you said a lot to them. You really proved out thy people.”

But he wasn't done. And, once again, he has another question and this one is very searching, too. This is back in verse 70. After hearing Peter's answer of faith that he gave, after hearing the words of life and everything pointing to Christ Jesus says:

“Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?”<sup>49</sup>

Wow. Eleven of them were sitting there saying, “Is it I?” See, those questions for the child of God you search.

Oh, Lord, reveal if there be this unbelief in me. Lord, it is better for me not to live if I am not your child.

Have you been brought there? Why did the Lord say such a thing? He is showing them one thing. It is all of grace. It is all of grace, again, lest we should boast. There is no

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<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> John 6:70.

boasting. Don't joy in what you have done. Joy that your names are written in heaven. Election, joy in what Christ has done.

You see, one of you is a devil. That had to be a very powerful question.

“Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?”<sup>50</sup>

One of you is here to do the devil's work. One of you is a servant of Satan and you are as close to me as any man will ever be to me. You will partake in healing. You will partake in casting out devils. You will partake in the ministry of Christ, but you are a devil.

Searching words for the child of God.

Now we don't point the finger at all the devils we see, because the Lord will bring that finger right back.

See if there be, Lord, try me. Is that experience of you, have I experienced you in my soul? Lord, bring that question to us. Will we also go away? And then reveal to us, Lord, who keeps us.

*Dear heavenly Father, most gracious and holy, add thy power for thy name's sake. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

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<sup>50</sup> Ibid.