

Three Responses!

John 6:60-71

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Churches in America tend to equate size with success
- **Temptation to tone down the message to attract a crowd**
 - 2 Timothy 4:2-- *"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."*
 - 2 Timothy 4:3-4-- *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."*
- **Large crowds followed Jesus early in his ministry.**
 - Matthew 4:25-- *"Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan."*
 - John 6:26-- *"You seek me, not because you saw the signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled."*
- **Jesus' discourse on the "Bread of Life".**
 - John 6:27-- *"Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."*
 - John 6:32b-33 -- *"My Father gives you true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*
 - John 6:35 -- *"I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."*
 - John 6:47-- *"Most assuredly I say to you, he who believes in me has everlasting life."*
 - John 6:51 -- *"I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever, and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world!"*

Three Responses to "Bread of Life" Message!

A. The Jews' Response

- John 6:41-- *"The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, 'I am the bread which came down from heaven.'"*
 - John 6:51-- *"The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, 'How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?'"*
1. **Identified—hostile religious leaders and followers**
 2. **Activities—asked questions, complained, argued.**
 - John 6:28-- *"What shall we do that we may work the works of God."*
 - John 6:30-- *"What sign will you perform then, that we may see it, and believe in you? What work will you do?"*
 - John 6:41-- *"bread which came down from heaven."*
 - John 6:42 -- *"Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then, that He says, 'I have come down from heaven?'"*
 - John 6:52 -- *"How can this man give us His flesh to eat?"*

B. The Disciples' Response!

- John 6:60-66 -- *"Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?" When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you? What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more."*

1. Identification: Jesus' "groupies"

2. Problems with the Sermon

a. Difficulty accepting Jesus' teaching-

- John 6:60 -- *"Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"*

b. Offended by what Jesus said

- John 6:61 -- *"When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you?"*

3. Jesus' Response

- Luke 9:23-24 -- *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."*

a. Jesus increases the offense by speaking of a greater scandal.

- John 6:62 -- *"What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?"*

1) The greater scandal is his "ascension" which begins at the cross.

- Philippians 2:8-- *"being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross!"*
- John 3:14-15 -- *"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

2) The cross of Christ as the supreme scandal

- I Corinthians 1:23 -- *"But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness."*

b. Jesus clarifies the nature of the metaphors He's been using.

- John 6:63 -- *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."*

1) "Flesh profits nothing"

2) "It is the Spirit who gives life"

- John 3:6 -- *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."*

3) "The words I speak are spirit and...life"

- John 5:24a -- *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life."*
- John 8:31 -- *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."*
- Luke 8:21 -- *"My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."*

c. Jesus reveals that He knows who will believe

- John 6:64-65 -- *"But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."*

4. **The "Disciples" Response**

- John 6:66 -- *"From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more."*

5. **Traits of a "False" disciple.**

C. The Twelve's Response!

1. **Identification: The "Twelve"**

2. **Jesus Question: "Do you also want to go away?"**

- John 6:67-- *"Then Jesus said to the twelve, ' Do you also want to go away?'"*

3. **Peter's Response**

- John 6:68-69-- *"But Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"*

a. *"Lord, to whom shall we go?"* What alternative is there? *"You alone have the words of eternal life"*

b. ***"You are the Holy One, the Christ, the Son of the living God"***

- Isaiah 41:14 -- *"Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I will help you," says the Lord and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel."*
- Isaiah 43:3 -- *"For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior"*
- Isaiah 47:4 -- *"As for our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His Name, the Holy One of Israel."*
- Acts 2:27 -- *"Nor will you let your Holy One see decay"*
- Acts 3:14-- *"You disowned the Holy and Righteous One."*

4. **Jesus' Correction**

- John 6:70-71-- *"Jesus answered them, 'Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?' He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve."*

5. **Traits of a "True" disciple.**

a. **Believes, that is, puts their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.**

b. **Continues in the faith.**

- John 8:31 -- *"If you abide in my word, you are My disciples indeed."*

c. **Perseveres to the end.**

- Matthew 26:31-32 -- *"All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written; 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'" But after I am raised from the dead, I will go before you to Galilee!"*
- Matthew 26:35 -- *"Even if I have to die with you, I will not deny You!"*

D. Your Response???