

“The Big Test”
John 6:67-71

Introduction:

1. When Was The Last Time:
 - You Had To Take A Test Or Exam?
 - The Truth Is - There Are All Kinds Of Tests:
 - That You Have To Take In Life!
 - Not Just For School!
 - But - Sometimes:
 - For Work & For Activities (Like Driving) & For Other Needs (Like Glasses)!
 - But - Whenever You Take A Test:
 - Need To Remember That - The Questions:
 - Are For The Student:
 - Not The Teacher!
2. Well - As We Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - To John 6 This Morning:
 - In The Final Verses Of This Chapter:
 - We Come To A Third Group:
 - That Jesus Addresses:
 - In His “Dialogue At The Synagogue!”
 - Which Took Place:
 - In Capernaum - Not Long After:
 - The Miraculous Feeding:
 - Of The Five Thousand!
 - The First Group Jesus Addressed:
 - Was A Crowd Of:
 - Curious But Skeptical Jews:
 - Who Objected To:
 - Jesus’ Teaching - That He Was The “Living Bread Which Came Down From Heaven!” (6:51)
 - The Second Group Jesus Addressed:
 - Was A Closer Group:
 - Of Followers - Who Ended Up:
 - Being Offended At:
 - The “Hard / Harsh Sayings” Of Jesus!
 - They Were Offended At Both:
 - What Jesus Said & How Jesus Said It!
 - And - According To 6:66:
 - “From That Time” - Many Of Them:
 - “Went Back, And Walked No More With Him!” - Showing That They Were Only:
 - Temporary Followers Of Jesus!
 - And That Left Jesus Alone:
 - With A Third Group - His Own Twelve Disciples!
 - To Whom He Asks The All-Important Question:
 - That We Come To Next:
 - In 6:67 - “Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?”
3. With This Question:
 - Jesus Gives His Twelve Disciples:
 - A Test! **IE:** Something Like A Pop-Quiz!
 - They Probably Didn’t Even Know:
 - That Everything They Heard & Saw Up Through This Chapter:
 - Was Preparing Them For This Moment!
 - But - After Revealing - In 6:60-66:
 - The Marks Of:
 - Temporary Disciples!
 - Jesus Wanted To Know:

- If They Were Different!
 - If They Were True Disciples!
 - And - If They Would Stay With Him & Walk With Him!
4. Now - Jesus Did Not Ask This Question:
- For Himself & His Own Information!
 - After All - As We Were Told:
 - Back In 2:25 - He Already:
 - “Knew What Was In Man!”
 - And - We’ve Seen This All Throughout This Chapter!
 - Because - Much Like The Teachers:
 - Who Gave You Your Tests:
 - Jesus Already Had:
 - The Answer Key!
 - He Already Knew Who:
 - His True Disciples Would Be!
 - Even As We Are Told In:
 - 2 Timothy 2:19 - “The Lord Knoweth Them That Are His!”
5. No - Jesus Asked This Question:
- To Test These Twelve:
 - Who Were Left!
 - So That They Might Know *Themselves*:
 - To Be True Believers In & Followers Of Christ!
 - But - This Is Also Here:
 - To Test You & Me This Morning!
 - So That You Might Know *Yourself*:
 - To Be A True Believer In & Follower Of:
 - Jesus Christ!
 - And - This Kind Of Test:
 - Is An Important Test To Take - And Pass!
 - Even As Paul Wrote Later:
 - In 2 Corinthians 13:5 - “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves!”
6. Well - In 6:68-69:
- Peter Speaks Up:
 - For Himself & For The Rest:
 - Of The Twelve:
 - To Give An Answer:
 - Directly To Jesus - And:
 - His Single-Question Test!
 - “Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. / And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God!”
 - This Answer:
 - Is The Right Answer:
 - To Jesus’ Question!
7. And - If You Can Personally & Sincerely Answer:
- In The Same Way:
 - Then You Too Can Be Counted As:
 - A True Follower - And - Even More:
 - A Close Friend:
 - Of Jesus Christ!
 - Because - The Right Answer:
 - To Jesus’ Question:
 - Involves Three Things:
 - A Clear Commitment To Christ!
 - A Clear Conviction About Christ! And:
 - A Clear Confession Of Christ!
8. So - How Will You Answer:
- Jesus’ Question This Morning?

- “Will Ye Also Go Away?”
- Make Sure Your Answer:
- Like Peter’s - Reveals:

1. A Clear Commitment To Christ!

- Even As We Find In:
 - The First Part Of Peter’s Answer for The Disciples:
 - In 6:68 - “Lord, To Whom Shall We Go?”
- When Peter Addresses Jesus:
 - As “Lord” - He Shows:
 - A Personal Acceptance:
 - Of All His Claims!
 - Other Times:
 - In This Gospel:
 - Jesus Was Called “Lord” & “Rabbi” - As:
 - A Sign Of Respect:
 - For His Position As A Teacher!
 - But Here:
 - I Believe - Peter Uses It:
 - In The Highest & Truest Sense:
 - Of The Word!
 - To Peter & The Other Disciples:
 - Jesus Was:
 - The Master & Lord - Of All!
 - And All Of His Words & Actions:
 - Confirmed His Identity:
 - As “Lord!”
 - But Then - Peter Answers:
 - Jesus’ Question - With A Question:
 - Of His Own - That Reveals:
 - A Personal Allegiance:
 - To Jesus - As Lord!
 - He Asks:
 - “Lord, To Whom Shall We Go?”
 - In Other Words:
 - For Peter & The Other Disciples:
 - There Was:
 - No Other Place:
 - They’d Rather Be!
 - Because - There Was:
 - No Other Person:
 - They’d Rather Follow!
 - **IE:** We Live In A World & Country That Is Full Of Choices And Alternatives! When You Want To Eat! (Greenfield) When You Want To Shop! Even When You Want To Watch Something On TV!
 - But - For A True Disciple Of Jesus Christ:
 - There Is No Other Alternative & No Other Choice!
 - Just Like It Was For Peter!
 - When He Came To Jesus:
 - He Discovered That:
 - His Search:
 - Was Over - And:
 - His Satisfaction:
 - Was Complete:
 - In Jesus Christ!
 - Is This How You Would Answer:
 - Jesus’ Question Today?
 - “Will Ye Also Go Away?”
 - Examine Yourself - And See If:

- You Have The Same Clear Commitment:
 - To Christ!
- But - This Kind Of Commitment:
 - Is Never Based On:
 - A Blind Or Unreasonable Faith!
 - Instead - It Involves & Is Based On:
- 2. ***A Clear Conviction About Christ!***
 - As We Find In The Rest Of:
 - 6:68 - A Conviction That:
 - “Thou - Jesus - Hast The Words Of Eternal Life!”
 - This Is A Statement:
 - Of Settled Faith:
 - In The Words & Teachings Of Jesus!
 - And - It Reflects:
 - A Heart-Felt Conviction:
 - That His Words:
 - Are True Words!
 - That Is - They Tell The Truth:
 - About What They Needed Most - And:
 - What He Knew Best!
 - The Truth About “Eternal Life!”
 - Back In 3:34:
 - Jesus Affirmed:
 - “For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God!”
 - So - To Be A True Disciple Of Christ Means:
 - You Believe That:
 - All Jesus Says:
 - Is So!
 - Because He Is The One:
 - God The Father “Hath Sent!”
 - Is This Your Conviction?
 - That Whatever Jesus Says:
 - In This Word:
 - Is True? No Matter What!
 - But - Peter Also Reveals:
 - The Disciples’ Conviction:
 - That Jesus’ Words:
 - Are Transforming Words!
 - That Is - Not Only Do They:
 - Tell The Truth:
 - About Eternal Life!
 - They Even Lead To:
 - Eternal Life:
 - Through Their Life-Giving Power!
 - Remember Back In 6:63:
 - Jesus Said:
 - “The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life!”
 - This Was - After All:
 - The Whole Point:
 - Of Jesus’ Words - Up Through This Chapter:
 - In The Gospel Of John!
 - 11 Times - Jesus Told Them About:
 - “Eternal Life” - And:
 - How They Could Experience It:
 - In All Of Its Quality & Quantity:
 - By Just Believing In Him!
 - And So - For A True Disciple Of Jesus Christ:

- This Kind Of Conviction:
 - About His True & Transforming Words:
 - Is Essential!
- Would Your Answer Be Like This Answer:
 - To Jesus' Question Today?
 - "Will Ye Also Go Away?"
 - Examine Yourself - And See If:
 - You Have The Same Clear Conviction:
 - About Christ & His Words!
- But - Its One Thing:
 - To Have This Conviction:
 - In Your Heart! Its Another Thing:
 - To Express Your Conviction & Commitment To Christ:
 - Before The World!
- And So - True Discipleship Also Involves:

3. *A Clear Confession Of Christ!*

- As We Find Next In:
 - 6:69 - Where Peter Makes This Confession:
 - "And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God!"
 - Some Greek Manuscripts Have:
 - "Thou Art The Only One Of God!"
 - However - The Fuller Confession:
 - Agrees With Peter's Confession:
 - At Another Place - Where By God's Illumination He Declared Again:
 - In Matthew 16:16 - "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!"
 - True Conviction:
 - About Christ - Will Always Lead To:
 - Public Confession:
 - Of Christ!
 - And - Peter Confessed:
 - His Assurance Of:
 - Christ's Unique Presence!
 - "Thou Art" - Peter Declared!
 - At That Very Moment In Time:
 - Jesus Was All:
 - That He Claimed To Be!
 - And - In That Time In History:
 - "All The Promises Of God In Him Are Yea, And In Him Amen!" (2 Corinthians 1:20)
 - Peter Also Confessed:
 - His Assurance Of:
 - Christ's Unique Purpose!
 - "Thou Art That Christ!"
 - The Chosen & Anointed One Of God:
 - To Be The Special Savior:
 - Of His People! Gospel!
 - Now - Even Though:
 - The Disciples Did Not Yet:
 - Understand The Fulness:
 - Of This Purpose!
 - They Were Sure:
 - Of Its Fact!
 - But - Peter Also Confessed:
 - His Assurance Of:
 - Christ's Unique Person!
 - "Thou Art That Christ, The Son Of The Living God!"
 - In Order For Jesus:
 - To Be The True Christ!

- In Order For Jesus:
 - To Do All That He Promised To Do!
- There Had To Be:
 - A Unique Relationship:
 - Between Jesus And God!
 - And There Was!
- Jesus Is The Eternal Son:
 - Of The Living God!
 - And This Is Why:
 - God “Is Able Also To Save Them To The Uttermost That Come Unto God By Him!” (Hebrews 7:25)
- And - For A True Disciple Of Jesus Christ:
 - There Will Be This Kind Of:
 - Personal & Public Confession:
 - Of Christ!
- So - How Would You Answer Jesus:
 - If He Asked You The Same Question:
 - He Asked His Disciples?
 - “Will Ye Also Go Away?”
 - Examine Yourself!
 - And See If You Have The Same Clear:
 - Commitment To Christ!
 - Conviction About Christ! And:
 - Confession Of Christ!
 - Because - This Is What It Takes:
 - To Pass The Test:
 - Of True Discipleship!
 - Even Paul Tells Us In Romans 10:9-11:
 - “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. / For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. / For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed!”

Conclusion:

1. Well - It Is Clear:
 - From These Verses - As Well As:
 - From The Rest Of His Life:
 - That Peter Passed The Test:
 - Of True Discipleship!
 - But - This Is Not How:
 - The Chapter Ends!
 - Instead - Jesus Challenges:
 - His Disciples - With Another Question!
 - Even - Another Test!
 - Because - Then:
 - 6:70-71 - “Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? / He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve!”
2. By These Words:
 - Jesus Wanted His Disciples Then - And:
 - His Disciples Now:
 - To Realize That:
 - The Need To:
 - “Examine Yourselves” - Never Ends!
 - True Discipleship:
 - Is Not Just About:
 - Checking:
 - All The Right Boxes! Or:
 - Filling In:

- All The Right Blanks!
- Your Commitment & Conviction & Confession:
 - Must Be Personal:
 - And True! From The Heart!
- 3. Even Though:
 - It Was Peter - Who Answered Jesus:
 - For The Twelve - His Answer Wasn't Enough:
 - For Those Twelve!
 - Because - The Faith Of One:
 - Cannot Stand In For:
 - The Faith Of Another!
 - And So - Jesus Spoke These:
 - Startling Words:
- 4. First - To Check:
 - The Hearts Of:
 - His True Disciples!
 - Though One Of Them:
 - Was "A Devil!"
 - That Was Not The Case:
 - For The Other Eleven!
 - Which One Would They Be?
 - Which One Are You?
 - "Examine Yourself!"
 - Jesus Also Said This:
- 5. To Counsel & To Warn:
 - The "One" Who Was "A Devil!"
 - The "One" Who Possessed:
 - The Same Spirit As The Devil!
 - And Who Would Manifest Himself:
 - In Due Time!
 - Of Course - That "One" Was:
 - Judas Iscariot!
 - This Is The First Time Out Of Nine:
 - That John Mentions Judas:
 - In This Gospel!
 - And - Though Today:
 - It Is A Name Used:
 - Even In The World:
 - To Describe A Worthless Man! A Traitor & A Betrayer!
 - IE: Like "Benedict Arnold!"
 - Yet - It Started Out As:
 - A Worthy Name!
 - Judas Was Named After:
 - Judah - The Royal Tribe:
 - Of Israel!
 - The Same Tribe:
 - Of David & Solomon & Jesus!
 - Meaning: "He Shall Be Praised!"
 - More Than Likely - "Iscariot" Refers To Where:
 - Judas & His Father Simon Lived:
 - In The Southern Part Of Judah!
 - So - Things Looked Very Promising:
 - For This Judas Of Judah!
 - Even Being Chosen By Jesus:
 - To Follow Him - For A Time:
 - In This World!
 - But - By Betraying Jesus:
 - He Slandered His Own Good Name - And Proved:

- His True Devilish Nature!
 - Just Think Of All The Advantages:
 - Judas Had!
 - But - He Failed The Test!
 - Because - He Did Not Take Jesus' Question To Heart!
 - "Will Ye Also Go Away?"
 - But - Jesus Also Spoke These Words:
6. To Confirm:
 - His Own Claims!
 - He Knew The True Heart:
 - Of Each One Of His Disciples!
 - Whether They Were:
 - Temporary Or True!
 - So - The Questions:
 - He Asked - Were Not:
 - For Him! After All:
 - As The Teacher:
 - He Already Had:
 - The Answer Key!
 - The Test:
 - Was For Them! And:
 - The Test:
 - Is Still For You!
 - 7. "Will Ye Also Go Away?"
 - How Will You Answer?
 - Will There Be The Clear:
 - Commitment To Christ!
 - Conviction About Christ! And:
 - Confession Of Christ!
 - That Is Necessary:
 - To Be A True Disciple?
 - If So - Make Sure:
 - Your Answer:
 - Is Right And True!
 - True To Christ - And:
 - True To Your Heart!
 - Only Then:
 - Can You Pass:
 - The Big Test:
 - Of True Discipleship!

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