

To Whom Else Would We Go?

John 6:60-71

I. INTRO

A. I learned this morning that Moria, the camp we visited in July, is now over 12,000 people. 450 or so arrived yesterday from Turkey. It is 4 times capacity and has increased 50% since July.

1. There are thousands of people living in sordid conditions

B. What horror of limited options would compel you to choose this?

C. What would cause you to like in your wife's face and say, "This is our only hope?"

D. Retell Genesis 22 and the story of Abraham leading up, the difficulty of it all

E. Sometimes obedience is confusing, difficult, gut wrenching, impossible w/out faith

II. JOHN 6:60-71

A. [60] When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"

1. 'Who is Jesus' is more important than 'what did Jesus say to do'

2. They are asking, "Should we listen to this guy" rather than, "Who is this guy?"

3. It's a backwards question and we are the same way

a) Ex: African pastor: Americans only follow God when it goes well for them. We follow God b/c he is God regardless of how life goes.

4. The question isn't "Should I listen to this hard saying?"

5. The ultimate question is "WHO IS JESUS?" and am I submitted to his authority?

a) Your kingdom come, your will be done...

6. Jesus came as the greater David, the King of kings

7. After his resurrection, the Father gave all authority to the Son

8. When Jesus makes commands, they aren't suggestions - even when they are hard sayings. Often, obedience is difficult, even excruciating (e.g. from the cross), as it was for Jesus.

9. Jesus says hard things... read some of Jesus' commands

10. Many in our culture, many of us, would utter, "Who can listen to this nonsense?"

B. [61] But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this?"

1. They took offense b/c they took his words literally, but something more

2. They took offense b/c they viewed him as another teacher, another man

a) If I tell you to do something that seems ridiculous, you can shrug your shoulders at me

b) If a police officer tells you to do something, you might respond differently

- c) If a president or the Queen of England, you might be more serious
3. As authority increases, the filter through which we view a command changes. We assign different qualitative values based upon the person
- C. *[62] Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?*
1. Jesus response then is this: What if you were to see me in all my majesty, all my glory, what if you were to see me in all my authority before the throne of God on High? What if you saw me with a multitude of angelic armies, bowing down in worship? What if you saw the living beings in the spiritual realms covering their eyes as they looked upon me and proclaimed me holy? What if all around me fell down as dead in worship when they even scratched the surface of my glory? What if you saw a sword come from my mouth to consume my enemies? What if you saw me as the all consuming fire that I am?
 2. Then would you be offended by my comments, my statements, my commands? Then would you listen to me?
- D. *[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.*
1. A theme so far...
 2. John 3:6, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."
 3. The flesh (i.e., human nature including emotions, will, and intellect) is completely incapable of producing genuine spiritual life or impact.
 4. Spiritual life can only be produced by the Spirit.
 5. As we learned last week, God speaks through his Word, teaches by His Spirit. In Jesus' words, the Spirit is speaking and the words are, in a sense, spirit and life
 6. His words have supernatural, divine power to bring the dead soul to life.
 7. This is why Jesus is unapologetic for his words. After all, he only says what the Father told him to say.
- E. *[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.)*
1. Let's just state the obvious. Some who are with him aren't believing even though they are witnessing these miracles week after week.
 2. Jesus knows who will and won't believe.
 3. This is a massive claim to omniscience (knowing everything) that directly relates to a claim to be God.
 4. Jesus knows you better than you know yourself.
- F. *[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.*

1. Just because you are a disciple, literally someone who is following Jesus, doesn't necessarily mean that you believe, and it doesn't mean you obey.
2. Many disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. Why?
 - a) Not b/c they didn't like his miracles
 - b) Not b/c they didn't like hanging out with him
 - c) B/C he said hard things, and they didn't want to submit to his authority (that's why he said v62)
3. In Matt 28, Jesus says, from a position of all authority, to go and make disciples of all nations, including that they identify with him in baptism (have you?) and that they obey all that he has commanded.
 - a) Is someone a disciple if they are not striving to obey their king? Not perfection, but that is what we are called to pursue → striving forward, pressing onward, laboring towards maturity
4. Everyone loves to cling to the promise in Matt 28 that Jesus is with us always, but if that is true, so is what precedes it - that all disciples obey Jesus (and make disciples who do the same)
5. For us, Jesus is saying, "Just because you come here, are in a DG, and call yourself a Christian doesn't necessarily mean that you are one. Are you truly believing?"
 - a) Remember: Jesus said that those who walked away didn't actually believe! Why? Because real belief leads to something - action.

G. [67] So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?"

1. Jesus says hard things.
2. There will come a day when the Lord will call you to do something difficult, and it will be as if he is asking you this same question. What will your response be and why?
3. Maybe it is today. Maybe you are sitting here wondering, "Do I really want to be a part of this? Do I want to follow this kind of King?"
 - a) I can't make that choice for you, neither can your family or friends, but listen to Peter's words:

H. [68] Simon 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. Where else would we go?
2. Think of his logic:
 - a) You are the Holy One of God (the promised, divine Messiah)
 - (1) In OT, God was called the Holy One of Israel. Peter calls Jesus the Holy One of God
 - (2) Israel was supposed to be the Holy Son of God, but they failed. Jesus succeeds in that identity.
 - b) You have the Words of eternal life
 - (1) The words you speak are Spirit. They create life. They did in Genesis, they did in Ezekiel, they will in Revelation

(2) You are the “Author of Life”

c) To whom else would we go?

(1) If you aren’t our hope, who is? If you aren’t the teacher who can show us the way, who will? If you aren’t the promised Messiah, who else is left?

3. Amen, Peter, Amen.

4. There will come a day when you learn something difficult about God. Something you might not like, something you wrestle with. In those moments, you will need to trust in his DEITY and in his GOODNESS and realize that there’s nowhere else to go.

I. [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.

III. WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ABOUT JESUS?

A. Jesus is the Holy One of God, who reigns in all authority.

B. Jesus speaks spiritual words of eternal life.

IV. WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ABOUT ME?

A. My flesh will wage war against me submitting to Jesus’ authority.

B. If Jesus isn’t my hope, to whom else shall I go?

V. CONCLUSION

A. Trusting Jesus is the simplest and hardest thing you will ever do in your life.