

To Whom Shall We Go? Jn. 6:66-69

Thesis: To help us understand the importance of staying with Christ.

Introduction:

- A. There are two main questions that we will discuss today.
 - 1. The first was asked by Jesus.
 - 2. The second was asked by Peter.
- B. Today, if we will have eternal life, we must answer these questions in the same manner that they are answered in the text.

I. Notice the setting of the two questions in our text (6:22-65).

A. Jesus is talking to His followers about the fact that He is the Son of God.

- 1. On numerous occasions in this passage, Jesus refers to Himself as the bread of life.
 - a. **Jn. 6:25-27** - And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You come here?” {26} Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. {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.”
 - b. **Jn. 6:32-35** - Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. {33} For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” {34} Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” {35} And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”
 - c. **Jn. 6:41** - The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.”
 - d. **Jn. 6:48-58** - “I am the bread of life. {49} Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. {50} This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. {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.” {52} The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?” {53} Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat

the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. {54} Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. {55} For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. {56} He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. {57} As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. {58} This is the bread which came down from heaven-- not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”

2. These are difficult things for the disciples to comprehend.

B. As you can imagine the reaction of the people is not favorable to Jesus.

1. Many of His own disciples began to fall away from Him.

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

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

2. So now Jesus wants to know if the twelve are going to be faithful.

II. Jesus asks His disciples a critical question (**6:67**).

A. Notice the question that Jesus asks His disciples.

1. **Jn. 6:67** - “Do you also want to go away?”

2. Remember that many of His disciples had already left Him, and He wanted to know if He could count on the twelve to be with Him.

C. God has always given His people a choice as to whether or not they will follow Him.

1. **Deut. 30:19-20** (Moses speaking to the people as they were about to enter the land of Canaan) - “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; {20} that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

2. **Josh. 24:15** (Joshua speaking to the people after they had taken possession of the land of Canaan) - And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

3. **I Kgs. 18:21** (Elijah speaking to the people before he took on the prophets of Baal) - And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.”

D. Today, there is a choice that we have to make.

1. We cannot serve both God and Satan.
 - a. We have to make a decision.
 - b. **Lk. 16:13** - No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
2. God knows that following Him is going to be difficult.
 - a. He knows that we will stumble along the way.
 - b. God has told us that it will be tough.
3. We have to choose to follow God.
 - a. God will not force us to follow Him.
 - b. God wants us to follow Him, but we are not forced to follow.
 - c. It was up to the twelve to decide whether to follow Him or not.
4. In a very real sense, we have this same question posed to us today: **“Do you also want to go away?”**
5. To get the correct answer to the question, notice the answer of Peter.

III. Peter responds to this question with a very important answer (6:68-69).

A. Peter always seemed to be the one responding to Jesus.

1. Peter (in this same story) walked on water with Jesus (**Mt. 14:22-33**).
2. Peter also confessed Jesus as the Son of God (**Mt. 16:16**; also in our text – **Jn. 6:69**).

B. This time, Peter speaks up with the correct answer.

1. **“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”**
2. There were some things that Peter understood that will help us all.
 - a. Peter understood that there was no one else that they could go to.
 - b. Remember what it was that had caused many of His disciples to leave.
 - 1) **Jn. 6:35** - And Jesus said to them, **“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”**
 - 2) **Jn. 4:13-14** (Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman by the well) - **Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, { 14 } but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”**
 - c. It is God, and God alone, who can give us eternal life (remember that Jesus is God in the flesh – **Jn. 1**).
 - 1) This eternal life comes through Christ.
 - 2) **Jn. 14:6** - **Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**
 - 3) **Acts 4:12** - **Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**

C. When we are faced with the same question today, we need to be ready with the same response as Peter.

Conclusion:

- A. Today, we have a choice.
- B. Will we choose to follow God or the world?