

The Gospel of John

True and False Disciples (Part 5)

John 6:60-66

INTRODUCTION:

Our passage this morning is Jesus' response to the false disciples after His sermon. It is found in John 6:60-66.

This morning we are continuing to look at the **contrasts** between a false disciple and a true disciple. The chapter started with the miracle of feeding the 5,000 men plus women and children, which probably puts you over 10,000 people. The Lord creates food. On the same day that He created the food, He was healing and casting out demons. It was just another day like any other day of miracles for Him.

Then verses 16 to 21 is the story of Him walking on water. And of course, John includes those two miracles because it fits his purpose. The miracles prove that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. John uses that as evidence for His deity and His claims. After the two miracles, we begin to hear Jesus teach, and He teaches for virtually the rest of the chapter.

So John, is writing these things about His works and about His words (**John 20:31**) “**that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you might have life in His name.**”

Our goal in this life is to do everything that we can to ensure that our name will be found in the **Lamb's Book of Life!** The sixth chapter of John devotes all 71 verses to help us understand what it takes to be a true disciple. It is really one of the **great chapters** in all of God's Word! What a tremendous blessing! The entire chapter takes place over only a couple of days at the very end of our Lord's Galilean ministry. You don't really understand **where** the chapter is going until you come to the end of the chapter.

All Stand and Read Scripture.

John 6:60-66 (NASB)

⁶⁰Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this* said, “This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble? ⁶²*What* then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? ⁶³It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. ⁶⁴But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. ⁶⁵And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.” ⁶⁶As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

Prayer

This is at the end of his ministry in Galilee in which He has done miracles on a daily basis, and in which He has taught the principles concerning the kingdom of heaven, which He has confirmed all His claims by His miracles.

The miracles prove that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. John uses that as evidence for His deity and His claims. After the two miracles, we begin to hear Jesus teach, and He teaches for virtually the rest of the chapter. So it starts out with His works and then moves to His words. John is concerned to be able to show the reader that the works and the word of Jesus give ample evidence to confirm His claim to be God, the Messiah.

Romans 12:2 (NASB)

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

We are **not** to be conformed to the ways of this world, but we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. So even though we still live in this world, we no longer do and say things to satisfy our own desires. Instead everything that we do and say, looking at it from a heavenly perspective, will be done and said to the glory God!

BODY:

I. THE OUTRIGHT REJECTERS.

ILLUSTRATION:

Picture a guy floating downstream on a raft on a mild summer day. He's having the time of his life enjoying the ride. The cool water gently splashes on him. The view is astounding.

You are on the shore and you know that there's a deadly waterfall not far downstream. This guy is on cloud nine as he floats ignorantly toward certain destruction! So you yell to warn him. You throw him a rope. But he rejects it and keeps floating toward certain death. Why won't he grab the life preserver? Because he loves what he's doing and he doesn't want to believe your warning.

That is the picture of a nonbeliever who rejects God's wonderful offer of salvation through Jesus Christ. You would think that everyone would eagerly grab the life preserver that God has thrown out through the gospel.

John 3:16 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Why would anyone reject such a wonderful offer? Why would anyone want to keep heading for eternal destruction?

John 3:19-21 (NASB)

¹⁹This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

²¹ But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

People reject Christ because they love their sin and they hate having it exposed by God’s light.

People don’t want God interfering with what they consider “a good time,” and they don’t believe the warnings of Scripture that they are under God’s judgment now and will face it eternally when they die. People **think** that they are **basically good** and that **God will overlook their faults** and **give them credit for their good deeds** on judgment day. So they don’t repent of their sin and believe in Jesus Christ to give them eternal life.

The Bible shows that our root problem is that we **love** our sin rather than God’s holiness. It’s a matter of the heart, and the only remedy for a renewed heart is the new birth, which gives us new hearts that hunger and thirst after righteousness.

While we are still conformed to this world, our attention remains upon our own selfish desires and wants. We seek the "**deeds of the flesh**".

Galatians 5:19-21 (NASB)

¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Our minds are set to give us our own desires and wants. It is all about ourself.

II. THE RELIGIOUS REJECTER.

The disciples that Jesus is talking to, for the most part in our text, are the Jewish leaders. They influence the crowd, and their influence is very strong. Part of what pushed the crowd to their final decision to reject Jesus was due the Jewish leaders attitude toward Jesus and the "religious" beliefs that they taught them.

Their disbelief was from their "religious" beliefs. They "**loved**" their sin, but their sin was not immorality. They took pride in their morals. The "**sin**" that they loved was their misinterpretation of the scriptures and the power they received from their leadership. They did not love God. Jesus warned them of their misunderstanding.

John 5:39-47 (NASB)

³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; ⁴⁰ and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. ⁴¹ I do not receive glory from men; ⁴² but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. ⁴³ I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the *one and only* God? ⁴⁵ Do not think that **I** will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is **Moses**, in whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶ **For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.** ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

Because of their wrong interpretation of the Old Testament scriptures concerning Christ, they were unwilling to listen and believe.

- They accused Jesus of blasphemy when He declared that He was God.
- They thought that the Messiah would be an earthly king that would give them peace and prosperity and liberate them from the Romans.
- They refused to believe that the Messiah would have to die on the cross.
- They attributed the miracles of Jesus to Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.
- Due to the many discrepancies against their "religious beliefs", they refused to believe that Jesus was the Messiah and sought to and eventually did kill Him.

We MUST have enough CONCERN for our salvation that we DO NOT ALLOW our preconceived "religious beliefs" to override the truths of the scripture.

2 Corinthians 13:5 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

III. THE FALSE DISCIPLE.

You would think that the works of Jesus and the words of Jesus would convince all the people to believe who were following Him. They saw His miracles and heard His words. But **verse 66** tells us **“As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.** The word "disciple" here is a generic word that does not indicate whether or not they have committed to Christ. The false disciples here have made the final decision to walk away from Christ.

What are the signs of false, temporary, disciples?

- The **first** sign that we saw at the very beginning of the chapter was that **they are attracted by the crowd.** They are trying to find out what of the excitement is all about.
- **Secondly, they are fascinated by the promise of the supernatural.** They wanted to get in on the healing and free food.
- **Thirdly,** we saw that **they are interested only in earthly benefits.** They try to take Jesus, remember, by force and make Him a king so He would be able to serve them every day. Their only interest was in what Jesus could give them physically. They wanted to force Him to become their king and provide them with peace and a welfare system.
- **Fourth,** we saw **false disciples are indifferent to worship.** False disciples have no interest particularly in Jesus. They are indifferent to worship. They might come to what is called worship and like the music and the experience. But they have no interest in directing worship and praise to God.
- **Fifth,** the **false disciples seek personal prosperity.** Their only interest from the feeding of the 5,000 was their interest in earthly bread, in earthly things. Jesus rebuked them and said, **“You’re here not because you saw the miracles, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not work for the food which perishes.”** Quit chasing Me all over the north end of the Sea of Galilee to get another meal. But rather, **“labor for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.”**
- Sixth, the **false disciples make demands on God.** They see God as a **dispensing machine** for all that they **desire and want.**

First, they say, "What should we do that we may do the works of God for ourselves?" Remember that? They wanted power for themselves.

Nicodemus, a powerful Jewish leader, had already acknowledged that "**No man can do what you do unless God is with Him.**" Give us that power!

Jesus told them "No!".

So they said, Okay, if you're not going to give us the power, then You've got to keep the miracles coming if You expect us to believe in You! You either give us the power to do the miracles ourselves, or You will have to keep doing the miracles that satisfy our desires."

- The **seventh** point. **False disciples do not find their desires fulfilled in Christ.** The **false disciple** wants more of what he's already got, from Christ. He wants more money, more stuff, more success, more worldly trash, more of what Paul calls dung.

The **true disciple** only wants Christ. Christ is everything to him!. It is not about himself. It's not about achievement. It's not about money. It's not about acquisitions. It's about Jesus.

So here we see false followers, the shallow, the curious, the selfish. These are seekers of personal satisfaction, demanding that the Lord respond to them. False disciples think God exists to serve them.

This is the hardness of the human heart. They saw it all and heard it all. But they have no interest in Jesus. They don't want Him. Oh, they **want what He can provide!** Give us this bread daily. They want the power. But they don't want Him. They have no love for Him.

Romans 12:2 (NASB)

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

CONCLUSION:

How often are we discouraged and disappointed when our best efforts to share God's word fails! As a true disciple we desperately want to see people converted to Christ. We want to see growth and maturity. We desire to please God. When people ignore invitations to praise and worship God in church; when people will not listen and believe; it is a powerful blow. It was a powerful blow to Jesus. It is a powerful blow to us as well when people have no interest in the Gospel that we are trying to share. How, after all that you have revealed to them about Christ and what He means to you, can somebody turn their back and walk away from Christ?

Well, Jesus is in that very position, only exponentially so, because He is God and He has literally been in their presence performing miracles on a daily basis for over a year. This group still doesn't believe. And it isn't that they don't have evidence. It is not they have not heard. It is that they're not interested in what He offers.

So how does Jesus handle this? Now remember, Jesus is human. He reacts in a most

amazing way!

John 6:44 (NASB)

⁴⁴No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

What is He doing here? Here is what He's doing. He's leaning hard on the divine election of His Father. (God's foreknowledge of everyone whose names are in the Lamb's Book of Life.) He is doing exactly what you and I need to do when we are in the same circumstance.

You repeating ask, Why don't they believe? Why don't they listen? Why don't they come? Why don't they accept? Why don't they acknowledge? The truth is so wonderful! It's so powerful! **What am I doing wrong?**

First of all, we cannot make people believe. Only God can do that. We are only the messenger of God's Word. Right? When they will not listen and believe, you rest in the sovereign purpose of God.

In that sense, Christ is like us. We didn't come down from heaven, but His one goal in life is to do the will of the Father, and that the Father's will would be fulfilled, and He rested in that.

Verse 39, "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me, I lose none, but raise it up on the last day." Verse 44. "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him." Verse 65. "For this reason, I have said to you, 'No one can come to Me unless it's been granted him from the Father.'"

He rests in His Father's will. When the Father draws, then the He gives to Me, I will receive, I will protect, I will not lose any of them, and I will raise him up in the last day.

John 10:25-28 (NASB)

²⁵Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. ²⁶But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand.

Again, the same scenario. You don't believe. You don't believe!

That is what God does for us. But we have a part in our salvation as well. We must act on our freedom of choice. So in **verse 40**, we look at the other side of the equation. "For this is the will of My Father, **that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him** will have eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day." Do you see that?

That is the apparent paradox. The Father draws. The Father wills. It's all His plan. And then in verse 40, Jesus looks at the **other side** and says, "Everyone who believes will have eternal life." We are promised that **everyone** who truly seeks God will find Him. Are you a true disciple?

Let's pray.

The Family of God.