

# “The Gospel of John: The Departure”

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## Scripture

### John 6:60-71

“Therefore, 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?  
“What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?”

63**“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.**

64“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 it was that would betray Him. And 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.”

66**As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.**

67So Jesus said to the twelve, **“You do not want to go away also, do you?”**

68Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”

70Jesus answered them, **“Did I Myself not choose you**, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?” Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.”

### Last Week:

The Grumblers -> The Jews in Galilee not receiving what Jesus said -> **“You want me to eat your flesh?”**

Jesus is evangelizing the group who are following Him based on His miracles -> **Serve first, Speak second!**

We’ve heard the reactions to Jesus as Messiah of God from the Jews in Jerusalem – earlier in John 5

We’ve heard the reactions to Jesus as Messiah of God from the Jews in Galilee – earlier in John 6

Today, we look at the reaction of the disciples:

### It’s Too Difficult (Hard)

### John 6:60-62

“Therefore, many of His disciples, when they heard this said, **“This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?”** But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble?  
“What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?””

“Many of His disciples” -> **Who are we talking about here?**

“Disciples” is used of many groups of people in Scripture -> **we should be clear based on the passage / context**

We have different groups to discuss today: these are individuals that have been following Jesus for a while

They followed Him because of His healing ministry

They followed Him because He fed the Five Thousand men (~20K people in total)

They **are NOT the Jews** tracking Jesus who were critical of Jesus’s ministry -> think more “common people”

We are talking about people that do not include “The Twelve” as we will see later in the passage

“This is a difficult statement” -> **skleros** -> Offensive or intolerable -> it’s tough to digest

Jesus offended people -> An old Scottish pastor said “**The truth has a scratched face**”

### Matthew 11:6

“Blessed is he **who does not take offense** at Me”

**Which statement tripped them up?** -> v.53 -> “unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood”

“Does this cause you to stumble?” -> Jesus senses them struggling with the statement -> **No Holy Spirit!**

Jesus was prophesied about as One that would cause people to stumble:

### 1 Peter 2:6-8

“For this is contained in Scripture: “BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED. This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, “THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone” and “**A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE**”; **for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.**”

**Jesus was prophesied to be a stumbling stone and a rock of offense to the self-righteous**

- He said He was the Bread of God -> people didn’t like it
- He said He was from Heaven -> people didn’t like it
- He said the Pharisees were hypocrites -> they didn’t like and planned to kill Him

### Isaiah 8:13-15

“It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread. Then He shall become a sanctuary; **But to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, and a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.** “Many will stumble over them, then they will fall and be broken; They will even be snared and caught.”

Isaiah prophesied that many would stumble over Jesus’s words -> **we see this fulfilled in John 6**

Peter said that they would stumble because of “disobedience to the word”

Even today, people stumble -> Last week Grayson said they stumble of exclusivity -> **that Jesus is the only way!**

**They grumble then stumble!**

“What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before”

**“What are you guys gonna do when you see Me go back up to Heaven?”**

Many would see that in -> **The Ascension**

### **Acts 1:8-9**

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” After He had said these things, **He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.**”

### **Mark 16:19**

“So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and **sat down at the right hand of God.**”

Not only did He go to Heaven, but He sat down at the right hand of God -> **to become our advocate in Heaven**

### **The Spirit Gives Life**

#### **John 6:63**

**“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”**

Repeating what He said earlier -> **you need to have spiritual life to get into Heaven**

The flesh is ineffective to gain spiritual life -> You cannot work to gain spiritual life -> **it is a gift**

#### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and **that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God**; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

“words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life” -> **“listen up guys, I’m telling you the truth”**

This is how you receive eternal life:

#### **John 4:10** (to the Woman at the Well)

“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' **you would have asked Him**, and He would have given you living water.”

What is Jesus saying to those following Him? -> "You just need to ask Me for eternal life!"

## He Knows

### 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 it was that would betray Him.** And 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."

Jesus announces that some of them do not believe

Jesus Knows who will believe and who will not

He is not surprised when someone comes to faith in Him or turns away from Him

We saw this in John 2:

### John 2:23-25

"Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, **many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing.** But Jesus, on His part, **was not entrusting Himself to them,** for He knew all men, and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man."

People "believed" in Him because of the signs -> the miracles drew their interest and intrigued them

Jesus, though, was not entrusting Himself to them -> He knew them individually and collectively (mankind)

"For this reason, I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father" -> Jesus repeats what He said in John 6:44 -> no man comes without the Father drawing them to Me

They have to be part of "The Gift" to be able to come and believe in Him

"who it was that would betray Him" -> John comments on Jesus's knowledge -> who would betray Him, also

You cannot hide from Jesus's eyes -> He sees all -> He knows your thoughts -> He sees your actions -> Repent!

## The Departure -> The '666'

John 6:66 (one of the saddest statements in all of Scripture)

"As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore."

The original language dictate that their decision was final -> they abandon Jesus

They would no longer follow Him -> even though they looked like followers for a while

Anyone seen this happen in your personal experience with people?

They are part of the church for a long time and then they disappear -> they're not interested any longer

Not that they leave the local church, but “the church” in general

Something happens where they become discouraged, or they are offended, and they're gone!

We should not be surprised -> it happened to Jesus, too!

### Those That Do Not Abide

There are a number of examples in the Bible of this result:

#### 1 John 2:18-20

“Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. **They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.** But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.”

They would have eternally remained if they were part of “The Gift” -> **remain means to abide**

Demas was called a “fellow worker” by Paul in Colossians, but:

#### 2 Timothy 4:9-10

“Make every effort to come to me soon; for Demas, **having loved this present world**, has **deserted me** and gone to Thessalonica”

### Parable of the Sower

#### Matthew 13:18-23

“Hear then the parable of the Sower. “When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, **the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.** This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

“The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and **when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.**

“And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and **the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.**

“And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, **this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”**

**Only one group out of four are true believers that remain...**

### Those That Abide

## John 6:67-69

“So, Jesus said to the twelve, **“You do not want to go away also, do you?”**”

Simon Peter answered Him, **“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that **You are the Holy One of God.**”**”

Jesus then looks at “The Twelve” -> **Are you leaving also?**

Peter responds for the Twelve and asks the very pertinent question -> “To whom shall we go?”

Jesus is the only Source of eternal life:

## John 14:6

“Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”**”

He is the exclusive and only Way

Those who believe He is the only Way, **remain or abide in Him**

## 1 John 3:23-24

“The one who confesses the Son has the Father also. As for you, **let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son, and in the Father.**”

Those that stay, abide until the very end

## Hebrews 3:14

“For we have become partakers of Christ, **if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end**”

## Philippians 1:6

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

True believers will abide forever until Christ returns or He takes us home

**But there is some bravado in Peter** -> a little boasting is implied in “We have believed!”

“Holy One of God” -> **Matthew 16:16** -> “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God”

Peter thinks the Twelve **should get some recognition for being able to believe** -> like some higher ability

Jesus has to realign Peter to reality:

## The Betrayer Revealed

### John 6:70-71

“Jesus answered them, **“Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?”** Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.”

Jesus tells Peter that **He chose Peter, not the other way around**

God the Father gave Jesus “the Gift” of those who would believe in Him

Out of that Gift of people, Jesus chose those who would be in “The Twelve”

Jesus chooses those to lead in the local church

Jesus chooses those to lead new ministries

He is the Head of the Church!

Jesus even chose His betrayer, the one who would turn Him in to the Jews

Jesus ensures that His chosen stay to the very end

### Hebrews 2:3-4

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation; which **at the first began to be spoken by the Lord**, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”

Our message to our friends and family members might need to be offense

Jesus is the only Way – Do not neglect the Son

### Prayer

### Benediction