

DOES THIS CAUSE YOU TO STUMBLE

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John 6:60-71

1. What does God want from us?
2. Among other things He wants us to know, love, follow and obey the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. In John 6: Jesus is presented as:
 - a. The One through whom God works.
 - b. The focal point of our faith.
 - c. The fulfillment of our need.
 - d. The assurance of eternal life.
 - e. The object of God's revelation.
 - f. The source of true, spiritual nourishment.
 - g. The reservoir of divine truth.
4. Last week we saw that this chapter begins with multitudes of so-called disciples following Jesus, but it ends with only twelve left—one of which Jesus labeled a devil.
5. Our examination of the dialogue between Jesus and the people who surrounded Him will reveal why most of them left, along with what constitutes authentic Christianity.

I. The majority present followed (sought) Jesus for the wrong reasons. 6:22-27

- A. Being around Jesus:
 1. Was exciting and entertaining. 6:1-2
 2. Was gratifying to the flesh—He fed them and met their physical needs. 6:3-13, 26
 3. Was promising—if He became king He would repair their world. 6:14-15
- B. A paraphrase of what Jesus told them was, “Seek Me rather than what I can do for you.” 6:27

II. The majority of those present were confused about what they called, “the works of God.”

- A. They asked, “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?” 6:28
NOTE: In other words, “Just tell us what we are supposed to do.” (Here is the attraction of a legalistic approach to Christianity.)
- B. The Gospel represents God's revelation related to:
 1. Man's spiritual condition; sinners by nature and by choice.
 2. God's provision for man's need; the atoning sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 3. God's command that we repent and embrace the One who did all that needed to be done.
- C. Jesus declared, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.” 6:29
NOTE: A genuine relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ is foundational to living a life that pleases God and advances His Kingdom.

III. The majority present wanted Jesus to perform for them. 6:30-33

- A. Many church growth “experts” say that if you are going to build a church you have to give people what they want.
- B. It is my conviction that people need to be confronted at the point of their real need, and not their perceived need.
- C. Jesus ignored their request and declared that He was what they needed.

IV. The majority present were unable to grasp the Gospel. 6:34-40

A. "Lord, always give us this bread."

B. "I am the bread of life."

1. I will fully satisfy all who come to Me.
2. I will sustain and keep all who come to Me.

NOTE: Not a single person who embraces Me in truth will be lost.

V. The majority of those present were unable to grasp the concept of the Incarnation. 6:41-51

A. They were trying to grasp spiritual truth with unenlightened minds.

B. Jesus advised, "Cast yourselves upon God, and ask Him to open your ears and your eyes, and ask Him to enlighten your minds and your hearts." (Paraphrase)

VI. The majority knew nothing about a personal, intimate relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. 6:52-59

A. Just like food and drink sustain physical life, Jesus Christ is the One who sustains spiritual life.

B. "He who partakes of Me abides in Me and I in Him." (Paraphrase, 6:56)

VII. The majority had difficulty listening to and dealing with the truth. 6:60-65

A. Jesus asked, "Does this cause you to stumble?"

B. Even as Christians we often struggle with the implications of Jesus' teaching.

C. Jesus stated, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." 6:63

APPLICATION

1. As a result of this ongoing dialogue many withdrew just as many do today when:

- a. God does not meet their expectations.
- b. They begin to confront the true implications of the Gospel.
- c. They realize that embracing Jesus Christ can't be done while continuing to hold on to the world.

2. Jesus asked the twelve who remained, "You do not want to go away also, do you?"

3. Peter responded:

- a. "Lord, to whom shall we go?"
- b. "You have words of eternal life."
- c. "We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

NOTE: All who are numbered with the twelve, with the exception of Judas, can sing, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood."