

### Verse 66

In the preceding verses Jesus has taught hard truths that many that were following Him found offensive. In [John 6:37-65](#), Jesus has covered many topics including election, predestination, total depravity, man's inability, God's effective call/draw, God's sovereignty with granting repentance, and perseverance of the saints unto glorification. Many grumbled and stumbled at the fact that He was claiming to be the Son of Man and the Bread of Life that came down from Heaven whose flesh had to be eaten and His blood had to drink for eternal life.

As a result of the hard truths and teachings that Jesus had been giving in the preceding verse many who had followed Him left and walked with Him not more. They did not believe that Jesus was the Son of Man and the Bread of Life who descended from Heaven or that He was sovereign over salvation. They were bothered by what they thought was a literal meaning of eating His flesh and drinking His blood and could not grasp/believe these truths. There have been multiple places throughout the gospel according to John thus far that have shown that many were following Jesus for wrong reasons and motives ([John 2:23-25](#), [John 6:26](#)). These who had left Him and His teaching were not true followers of His, but rather those who were following for the miracles He was performing and for the selfish gains they were anticipating. His true followers will never leave Him because they have been given by the Father to the Son and will be raised on the last day.

- [1 John 2:18-24](#) 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. <sup>19</sup>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 <sup>[d]</sup>it would be shown that they all are not of us. <sup>20</sup><sup>[e]</sup>But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. <sup>21</sup>I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and <sup>[f]</sup>because no lie is of the truth. <sup>22</sup>Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the <sup>[g]</sup>Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup>Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. <sup>24</sup>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.

### Offended by His Words

These people were not offended by His actions or works such as healing people and multiplying bread, but rather by the words that He spoke and the truths He proclaimed. People often create a Jesus that suits their desires and will not offend them. He has revealed who He is and His truths in His word and belief or unbelief hinges on believing His words. Through scripture those who were offended with Christ were offended and angered by His words. However, we know His words are spirit and life ([John 6:63](#)). This is why theology is vital. One must believe the words of Christ and the message of the gospel and put their faith in the Jesus of the Bible (not an invented Jesus) and the truths He proclaimed. There are multiple examples of people becoming furious, angry, and offended by His words: ([John 5:18](#), [John 8:43-59](#), [John 10:29-33](#), [Mark 14:53-65](#)). By His words people come to believe and an example of this is found in [John 8:30](#).

### Verse 67-69

After all these had left Jesus, He turns to the twelve and asks "you do not want to go away also, do you?" Peter answers and states "Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God." Peter also had another significant answer a question by Jesus as found in [Matt16:13-18](#):

- *Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, <sup>[h]</sup>Elijah; but still*

others, <sup>[j]</sup>Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup> He \*said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are <sup>[i]</sup>the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon <sup>[k]</sup>Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> I also say to you that you are <sup>[l]</sup>Peter, and upon this <sup>[m]</sup>rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Where else could we go or who else could we go to, but to God? God alone is the only source truth, hope, joy, comfort, peace, strength, wisdom, righteousness, salvation, and eternal life. His words are spirit and life (John 6:63) and His words can raise one to spiritual life. There is no One else to go to for salvation and eternal life. He is the Holy One of God.

### Verse 70

The response of Jesus after the confession of Peter at Caesarea Phillipi (Matthew 16:13-18) is quite different from the response Jesus gives in the text. In this verse Jesus begins talking about the 12 he had chosen as disciples and that one of the twelve (Judas) was a devil who would betray Jesus. If there was any discouragement among themselves by seeing all these people leave who claim to follow Him, they should be prepared for what the future holds when the 12 will be reduced even farther when Judas betrays Christ. They were willing to stand for the truths of God including the hard teachings even while standing as the minority!

**Easier to get a crowd than to make a disciple. Getting people to come to church is the easy part. The hard part is to make and train disciples which is what the great commission states we are to do (Matthew 28:19-20). This command is not “go and fill churches with as many as you can, but rather make disciples and teach them all that Christ has commanded (words). The number of disciples is smaller than the number of church goers as a whole.**

### Verse 71

Judas was prophesied in the Old Testament to betray Christ (Psalm 41:9). Judas was never a true believer and follower of Christ. This is a terrifying verse in the fact that Judas was in an elevated position, walked with Jesus physically, gains trust enough to be the treasurer of the money, and looked the part of a believer in every way. However, he was a professor and not a possessor of faith and salvation. Judas believed in Jesus intellectually, but it never was in the heart. Judas was the same as those who walked away this date, but his time for open rebellion was not yet. Judas’s greed and sinful action against Jesus is part of God’s predetermined plan (Acts 2:23-24, Acts 4:27-28) that brought about salvation to His elect. What Judas meant for evil; Jesus meant for good for the saving of many lives. This was the same just as the same with Joseph and His brothers who sold him into slavery in Genesis 50:20: *As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about <sup>[n]</sup>this present result, to preserve many people alive.*

- **Matthew 7:21-23** “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many <sup>[o]</sup>miracles?’ <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

There are hard truths in the Bible that offend people. God is not apologizing for His hard truths or giving us permission to ignore them or deny them just because we don’t like them. We are required to believe, teach, and preach what the Bible says, not what we want it to say. Many hear His truth and keep walking away looking for something else they think will fulfill them and give them life. However, no one will ever find life outside of Christ. Let us be like Peter and answer from the depths of our soul “where could I go, but to you and where would I want to go but to you because you have the words of eternal life!”

