

- I. Opening Thoughts
  - A. Not everyone who claims to follow Jesus are true, authentic followers
  - B. We cannot accept Jesus without accepting His words as truth
- II. Exegetical notes
  - A. Vss. 60-61
    1. Many people are offended by Jesus' words because:
      - a. They misunderstood what He said, as is the case here
      - b. They cannot accept the demands that came with following Him
      - c. They thought He would be different; that He would make life easy for them
    2. More often than not, people take offense when offense is not given. Jesus is perfect; so are His words. The intent of this discourse was not to offend, yet, they took offense.
    3. There are always two reactions to the message of Christ: 1) the false disciples' reaction of unbelief (vss. 60-66) and 2) the true disciples' reaction of belief (vss. 66-71). Notice how the crowd whittled down to the Twelve.
    4. The gospel is offensive because it calls us to die to our selfish ambitions and to abandon ourselves to the grace of Jesus. It requires commitment and obedience – Matthew 10
    5. Carson's notes, pg. 300
  - B. Vs. 62
    1. If they take offense now, what about when Jesus is on the cross?!
    2. Though the cross brought glorification to Jesus, the disciples could not fathom it
  - C. Vss. 63-66
    1. The Spirit is what changes and transforms us
    2. The flesh is worthless. The flesh does not see the need to change; the flesh cannot produce spiritual life; the flesh cannot live for God – it has no desire to
    3. Jesus' words, rightly understood, give life
    4. Carson's notes, pg. 302
    5. One cannot feed on Christ without feeding on His own words; truly believing in Jesus means truly believing His words
    6. If the words of Jesus are not combined with faith, they are of no value (vs. 64) – Hebrews 4:2
    7. The words of Christ are life-changing. There is power in the Word! Treasure the word! – Psalm 119
    8. Yet and still, some still won't believe
    9. Jesus knows who His true followers are – John 2:23-25. Some of the biggest apostates are in the church.
    10. Even in hearing the truth, many won't believe unless the Father enables them – Matthew 13
    11. Those who don't believe, leave. This leaving was decisive and final – vs. 66
  - D. Vss. 67-70
    1. Where can we go? The only place to go is Jesus
    2. There is no middle ground with Jesus. We either accept Jesus (which will lead to a changed life) or reject Him (which leads to eternal damnation)
    3. John 14:6

Summary of John 6 discourse: Many have false belief; some have true belief. Many follow Jesus for personal gain; some follow regardless of the cost. There are only two real responses to Jesus: 1) accept Him (sayings, demands, and commands) or 2) reject Him. Which camp do you fall in? Just because you go to church and do acts of service does not mean you accept Jesus' words. Jesus wants obedience and repentance. Those are signs of true followers.