18 May 2025_John 6:60-69_Where Will I Go?

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Good morning, church!

Let me ask you something— Have you ever faced a moment that forced you to make a hard decision?

Not a light one. Not a convenience thing.

I mean a decision that shakes you... That challenges you to choose between what's *comfortable* and what's *right*.

That moment when the truth hits you in the chest and you realize: I can't ignore this anymore.

Today, we're looking at one of those moments.

In John 6:60–69, Jesus says something so bold, so hard to swallow, that many of His disciples walked away.

They had to decide: Will I keep following... even when it's hard? Or will I back off... because the truth cuts too deep?

But this isn't just *their* moment. **It's our moment too.**

Because the Gospel doesn't just comfort you— It confronts you.

It interrupts your life. It exposes the lies you've believed. It calls you to something deeper—something harder but **so much better.**

Today, I want to show you **four powerful truths** the Gospel reveals. And with each one, you'll have to answer the same question the disciples faced:

Will I go with Jesus-no matter the cost?

So let's open our hearts. Let's lay down our defenses. And let's lean in to what God is saying to us today.

Ask yourself... Where will I go?

4 truths... beginning with...

1. Gospel truth will shake you before it saves you. v60

John 6:60 — "Therefore, when many of his disciples heard this, they said, 'This teaching is hard. Who can accept it?"

Let's set the scene.

The crowd in <u>John 6</u> isn't new to Jesus. Just the day before, they watched Him feed over 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish. That miracle wasn't just about bread—it was a sign. It was meant to show them who He really is—**God with them.**

But now they're back. And not to worship. They want another sign.

In verse 30, they say,

"If you do something else amazing, then we'll believe."

As if to say: "Yesterday's miracle was just the appetizer. If you really want our faith, wow us again."

That was yesterday's top TikTok clip but they weren't looking for a Savior... just another viral moment.

So what does Jesus do?

He doesn't give them more food. **He gives them Himself.**

"I am the Bread of Life. Eat my flesh, drink my blood, believe in Me—and you'll live forever." (vv.32–58)

And their response?

"This is hard. Who can accept it?" (v.60)

They couldn't take it. They wanted **miracles—not a Messiah.** Bread—not Lordship.

And let's be honest—that's not just *them.* That's *us*, too.

We want a Jesus who answers our prayers... But not one who calls out our sin. We want **comfort**, not **confrontation**. **Help**, not **holiness**. A **God with benefits**—not a committed relationship.

But here's the thing:

Gospel truth doesn't just inspire you—it interrupts you.

It shakes your assumptions. It exposes your preferences. It demands a response.

A Picture this...

God's Word like a yellow light at an intersection. And just so you know—there are only two kinds of drivers:

Some see the yellow and slow down. They know what it means—"Prepare to stop. Something's about to change."

But others?

They hit the gas. Yellow is just a suggestion—something to zoom through so their progress won't be interrupted.

And sometimes, they end up running a red light... or causing a near miss.

That's exactly how some of us treat God's truth.

He flashes a warning puts a yellow light in your life—not to block your way, but to get your attention.

To say,

"Stop. Slow down. What I'm about to say will save you."

And let's keep it 100-you've seen those yellow lights.

- That conversation you didn't want to have... but couldn't shake.
- That uneasiness you felt before clicking on that site or short.
- That conviction in a sermon you tried to ignore.
- That random call or text from a friend asking, "Hey... are you really okay?"

That wasn't random.

That was Jesus flashing a yellow light.

Trying to get your attention.

Don't rush through it. Don't ignore it. Don't say, *"That's too hard to accept."*

Because when you say that what you're really saying is,

"Leave me alone. I want to live the way I always have."

Yhe reality is that:

We need those yellow lights. Flashes of Gospel truth that shake us awake because that's where salvation starts. That's where transformation begins.

When the light turns yellow—don't hit the gas. See it. Slow down. And listen.

You know, it's one thing to be made aware of a problem...

But until you get to the root of it until you confront the lies behind it you'll stay stuck.

And that's exactly what this second Gospel reality addresses.

2. Gospel truth exposes the lie(s) you've chosen to believe. v61-66

That's exactly what's happening in this next section.

Jesus spoke a hard truth: Belief in Him was the only way to be saved.

And just like that-people started walking away.

Why? Because that truth **exposed** them. It exposed what they really believed... and what they were willing to accept. They were fine with a God who gave them manna. **Miracle after miracle. Blessing after blessing.** But they weren't ready for a Messiah who demanded faith.

They wanted **signs**, **not surrender**. **Provision**, **not a person**. They didn't Jesus LORD of all—they wanted Jesus the giver of good things.

And when the truth confronted that,

it separated the real disciples from the crowd.

As it turned out they weren't followers. They were merely fans. In it for the thrill—not the truth.

And the same thing still happens today.

Some of the lies we believe... don't even sound like lies.

And that's b/c they came from people we love— Parents. Teachers. Coaches. Pastors. And our cultural experiences.

You've heard them:

"Real men don't cry."

"God only helps those who help themselves."

"Your past determines your future."

"You only get one life so live your best life now.

"You've got to forgive yourself before God can forgive you."

"You'll never rise above where you came from."

They sound wise. Some even sound spiritual. But they're not built on truth.

They're built on **fear**, on **survival**, on old **wounds, and borrowed offenses**. And if you don't let God's Word cut through those lies—**you'll end up building your faith on them. And when the storms of life blow, you'll be no match for them.**

So, you see the Gospel doesn't just comfort us—it also **confronts us**. It **exposes the lies we've believed**—so that we can surrender them to God for help.

God's Word... It's like sitting in the dentist's chair. The hygienist takes that little metal pick and starts probing around your teeth and when they hit a cavity, you flinch.

Not because the tool is sharp but because it hit a soft spot.

That's what God's Word does. It presses on the pain you've buried. It pokes the lies you've protected. It presses against the pride you've tried to keep hidden.

Loved ones, you don't have to carry it anymore.

Let the truth do what God intends to lovingly expose the lie so Jesus can heal it.

Because here's the difference: Fans walk away when things get uncomfortable.

But followers lean in and say, "Lord, I don't like it... but I know I need it."

And once the lie is exposed-you can't stay neutral. You either go back to living the lie... grinning and skinning like it's no big deal.... Or you surrender to the truth.

Which takes us to our 3rd reality...

3. Gospel truth demands a decision. v66-67

After the crowd bailed, Jesus didn't panic.

He didn't chase them down. He didn't soften the message to win them back.

Instead—He turned to the Twelve. And said:

"You don't want to go away too, do you?"

He wasn't asking out of fear. He wasn't begging them to stay.

This was a line-in-the-sand moment.

It was His way of saying:

You who are left... are you willing to going all the way with Me or not?

The truth is—those who walked away had never truly devoted themselves to Jesus. So when the message got hard... they kicked rocks. They picked up their ball and bat and went to play at somebody elses church.

But not the disciples who stayed. And not us. Because we're not fans—we're followers.

We're in a **covenant** with Jesus. So when He exposes our sin— When He presses on our hearts— When He calls out the lies we've chosen to believe—

We don't get to say, "Hands off." We don't get to say, "Not right now." We don't get to take a break from belonging to Him.

Think about it like this:

If you had a tooth that needed a root canal, **you wouldn't just ignore it.**

Why? Because you know it'll only get worse.

The same is true for the sin that God exposes. **If you don't deal with it—it will deal with you.**

So decide today: Give Jesus your sin issue. Let Him deal with it. Because if you don't, here's what will happen. Undealt with sin:

1. It damages your relationship with God.

Sin grieves the Holy Spirit. When we protect the very thing that put Jesus on the cross, it cuts deep.

2. It steals your joy.

You can't walk in peace while holding onto something that breaks God's heart. Even when you know God won't stop loving you—You'll always *feel* like He might.

3. It stunts your spiritual growth.

You can't grow in godliness while coddling sin. You can't pursue Jesus and protect your idols at the same time.

4. It invites God's discipline.

And yes—God disciplines His children. Just like a good parent corrects their child out of love— **God will correct you when you wander.**

And if that's where you are today— If you feel that distance, that weight, that unrest—

Then maybe you've already passed the decision point. And now it's time to respond.

Like David in Psalm 51:10, cry out:

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

And the moment you do, God—who is rich in mercy—will restore you.

But it all starts with that first step: **Do something about the sin God is exposing.**

Before we move on— I want to pause.

I sense there are some here today... you've heard God's voice. He's shown you the error of your ways.

And up to this point, you haven't done anything about it.

Now is the time. This is your moment.

Your first step may be as simple as whispering:

"God, I'm sorry. Help my unbelief."

Whatever you, don't leave here the same way you came.

Jesus is offering to help you. But you've got to decide.

Because that's the reality of the Gospel:

It demands a decision.

That's our 3rd reality... fourth...

4. Gospel truth leaves you with one option: go with Jesus. v68-69

At the end of the day going with Jesus isn't just the best option... it's the only one.

After the crowd walked away, Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked,

"You don't want to go away too, do you?"

And Peter replied,

"Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that You are the Holy One of God."

Peter wasn't trying to gas Jesus up. He spoke with **conviction**. An assurance of who Jesus was

His response is jam packed with truth that we can't afford to rush past.

Peter calls Him "Lord." Not teacher. Not friend. Lord—Master.

To call Jesus "Lord" is to say:

"You have full authority over my life. I follow You. I obey You. I belong to You."

Then he says, "You have the words of eternal life."

Just moments before, Jesus told the crowd,

"I am the bread of life. Eat of Me and never die."

That was too much for them. So they walked away.

But Peter and the other 11 disciples stayed—because they knew: Only Jesus can save. Only Jesus can satisfy their ever longing hearts. Only Jesus offers eternal life.

Then he adds, "You are the Holy One of God."

IOW: You're not just a good teacher. You're not just a prophet. You have God's authority. And to follow You is to follow God Himself.

That was their confession. That was their conviction.

Now I could ask, "Who wouldn't want to follow Jesus after all that?"

You'd think it's a no-brainer, right?

But we know it's not that simple.

Even the most devoted among us struggle.

Peter—who just made this declaration—would later deny Jesus three times. Judas—who heard the same teaching—sold Jesus out for silver.

So hear me when I say this:

Staying with Jesus isn't just about what you know or what you say about Him-it's about how you see Him.

When Jesus becomes not just an option, but the only option-everything changes.

When you become convinced that **can't nobody do you like Jesus**—you stop playing games and start living for Him exclusively.

And when you do sin—because we all still stumble—**you're bothered by it.** It doesn't hit the same.

Your flesh may want what it wants... but the Holy Spirit says, "You know you don't get down like that anymore." That's not who you are anymore.

So what does that look like in real life?

It means you can't just sin and shrug it off. You can't laugh it off, justify it, or bury it inside like you used to.

Instead... You feel it. You're convicted by it.

We own it. We confess it. We ask Jesus to change how we see sin and relate to it.

And listen, because this is essential—you've got to **hate** your sin. Not just the sin of others-that's easy.

You've got to hat your sin. Your **sin of choice.** That one you keep returning to.

You've tried to kick it - but it keeps coming back. Stuck in a perpetual sin cycle: Sin. Conviction. Confession. Empty promise. Repeat.

And with each cycle you'll become less sensitive to it. You believe the lie that you'll never break free from it. So, you resign yourself to living with it.

Ever been there? I certainly have.

But today is your day to get off the merry-go-round of sin Give it to the Lord— And **wage war on it**. You've got to hate it.

Jesus didn't play with sin. He said in <u>Matthew 5:29</u>...

"If your eye causes you to sin—gouge it out. It's better to lose part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell." IOW...

Do whatever it takes to get rid of the sin that's killing you. Stop acting like its who you are. That's not who you are. Your'e a child of the most high. You've been redeemed. You've been set free from the bondage of sin - so live like it.

Learn that sin—and anything that tempts you to sin—is deadly. The cost is too great. And your witness is too important.

Today is your day to draw a line in the sand against your sin and say: *From this day forward, I'm only going with Jesus.* Sin, I refuse to carry you any further.

Let me bring all of this home.

Just like in the text, today there are two groups of people gathered:

- 1. Those who want Jesus for what He can do for them in this life. They have no use for Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- 2. And there are others of you-like Peter-who desire to go all the way with Jesus.

And here's the reality: there's a common denominator between the two groups: sin.

- The sin of unbelief is keeping the unbelievers from "going with Jesus."
- And **undealt-with sin** is hindering the progression of those of us who are in Christ.

So, the next logical question is this:

Now that you've been made aware of who Jesus is-and what He expects of us, what are you going to do about it?

Will you, unbeliever, surrender your unbelief and join Peter in being convinced that Jesus is all you need to live?

Will you, fellow Christian, surrender your sin to Jesus, so that you can go even further in Him?

Ultimately, the decision is yours.

I pray that you choose rightly, so that you experience the fullness of Christ's love and know Him more deeply.

Together we've walked through four powerful Gospel truths:

- The Gospel will shake you before it saves you.
- It will expose the lies you've believed.
- It demands a decision.
- It leaves you with one option—go with Jesus.

And now... it's your turn to respond. Jesus isn't asking you to be perfect. He's not asking you to figure it all out. He's asking you the same question He asked the Twelve: "You don't want to go away too, do you?"

How will you answer? Because right now, you're standing at a fork in the road. One path leads back to comfort, compromise, and quiet regret. The other leads to Jesus—and everything he is, everything your soul was made for.

So what's it going to be?

Let's take a moment right now. Bow your head. Be still. If you're tired of pretending... If you're done running... If you're ready to say: "Lord, to whom would I go? You have the words of eternal life. I believe. I surrender. I'm Yours." Then talk to Him right now.

Would you Join me in prayer!

Closing

CC, Prayer/Questions, Food, LGLP

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