

"To Whom Shall We Go?"
The Gospel of John Chapter 6:60-71

The words of Jesus have caused great consternation and division not only amongst the multitudes but also with Jesus' disciples. The word disciple in Greek means a hearer or learner. The Greek word translated hard means offensive or disagreeable. They were particularly offended that He claimed to come down from heaven. Rather than offer a defense, Jesus instead informs them of His future ascension back into heaven (Acts 1:9-11). The One who is the truth (Jhn. 14:6) can only speak the truth.

The peoples' difficulty in believing arises from Jesus' continual emphasis on spiritual realities as opposed to their physical emphasis. Spirit (Greek *pneuma*) in verse sixty-three is a reference to the Holy Spirit, for He is the life-giver (Gen. 1; 2; Jhn. 3:5). The Spirit led and filled man understands spiritual things; the man in the flesh does not (1Cor. 2:14; Gal. 5:16-25). The words that Jesus spoke livened and renewed the soul. They would lead to a relationship with Him and hence to His Father, but they would not believe (Jhn. 3:19). Belief is man's responsibility (Jhn. 3:16) as Jesus again emphasizes the Father's sovereignty in verse sixty-five.

Many then and today turn away from Christ because He came to bring a sword, not peace (Matt. 10:34-38). Jesus now tests (not tempts, Jms. 1: 1215) the twelve. They can make their choice (human responsibility). God compels no one to follow Him (Mk.10:17-22). Peter's answer, "Lord, to whom shall we go?" should be our answer as well (2Cor. 4:16-18). The confession of Peter is similar to the one found in Matt. 16:13-19. Jesus is **the** only Way (Jhn. 14:6). Remember how quickly Peter abandons the spiritual for the physical (Matt. 16:21-26), a sure lesson for us. We must continually go to Jesus by continually believing (present tense in Jhn. 3: 16) in Him. Those who do will never perish!

Jesus had chosen this small group of twelve apostles (Greek *apostolos*, one who is sent). Yet one was a devil (Greek *diabolos*, slanderer). The Son of Man faces trials and tribulations and the greatest of sorrows and disappointments from His most trusted followers (Heb. 4:15). Jesus is the full manifestation of God's mercy and grace and awesome love for us (Jhn. 1:14; Eph. 2:4). May we ever lift His name on high and rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4-8); not grieving the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30).