



Metro Calvary – Roseville CA  
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## Hard Words

### John 6:35-71

**Related Topics:** Jesus - The Truth Teller; Jesus – Knowing Hearts; Jesus - Bread From Heaven; Jesus – Living Bread; Heaven; Faith; Eternal Life; Moses; Manna; Sought By God; Drawn By The Father; Works Or Faith; The Work of God; Soft Words Make Hard hearts; Hard Words Make Soft Hearts

Though we occasionally have a series of studies on a given topic in the Scriptures, we make it our practice to study straight through entire books of the Bible. By systematically studying through entire books of the Bible we are forced to consider all that God has to say in a book of the Bible, and we thus avoid the pitfall of looking at only the parts of the Bible that we like or the parts that are easier to understand. This means that we inevitably come upon passages that are controversial. That is certainly true about the closing verses of **John 6**.

Last week we took our first run at the closing section of **John 6**. As we did we came to some HUGE themes.

The theme of Jesus being the BREAD OF LIFE that has come down from heaven. Even as bread is the staple of life, man **MUST** have it and **MUST EAT** it. Man **MUST** have Jesus and **PARTAKE** of Jesus for eternal life.

The themes of FAITH and ETERNAL LIFE. FAITH is how we partake of Jesus who IS the bread of life come down from heaven. We **TRUST** in, **CLING** to, and **RELY** upon the person and work of Jesus for forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life.

**Verse 35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life;**

On seven different occasions in John's Gospel Jesus makes seven dramatic **I AM** statements:

- i. I AM the Bread of life (6:35, 41, 48, 51)
- ii. I AM the Light of the world (8:12; 9:5)
- iii. I AM the Door of the sheep (10:7, 9)
- iv. I AM the Good Shepherd (10:11, 14)
- v. I AM the Resurrection and the Life (11:25)
- vi. I AM the way, the truth, and the life (14:6)
- vii. I AM the true Vine (15:1, 5)

Each of those **I AM** statements harken back to **Exodus 3**

*Exodus 3:13-14* Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you.'"

By using that phrase — EGO EIMI — Jesus is telling those descendants of Abraham that He is the God of Israel — that He HAS life and that he GIVES life. He is saying that they must be sustained and nourished by Him.

**whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.**

Man was MADE to receive life and be sustained by the life that is derived from fellowship with God. Since the fall of man in **Genesis 3** there is this deep hunger and thirst for God and for that life that is derived from God. The problem is that fallen man tries to satisfy that hunger and thirst with the things of this world that are already perishing — things that can not give life. THAT is why Jesus began by telling them to STOP laboring for the food that is at this moment perishing. REAL LIFE is wrapped up in Jesus who IS the BREAD OF LIFE! Jesus is the answer to that Hunger and thirst. It is so amazing when you meet Jesus — because you find in Jesus life itself. It really is all about Jesus.

**<sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.**

Many of you have seen me and you still **do not** — and **will not** — believe. They lack the ONE and ONLY thing by which they can partake of Jesus.

This is not easy stuff for these people to hear. These words of Jesus are really grating on them. But the words of Jesus are gonna get even harder!

**<sup>37</sup>All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.**

GREAT NEWS — If you truly come to Jesus He will NEVER cast you out — He will never turn you away! I am not saying that the TV series LOST is a theological reference — but there was a moment a week or two ago that was a great illustration of this truth in John 6:37. Benjamin Linus – the villain – who was a murderer and a liar who would do anything for power — was asked by a lady what he was following John Locke — the incarnation of evil on the island. Weeping, Benjamin replied — “Because he’s the only one that will have me.” The Lady looked at Benjamin and said — “I’ll have you!” A lot of people continue in a life of sin because they have bought into the lie that God would never have them and that Christians would never have them!

JESUS SAYS — *I’m the Bread of Life that has come down from heaven. All that the Father gives Me will come to me for this life and whoever comes to me, I will never drive away from me.*

**BUT HERE’S THE HARD BIT** — The very words of Jesus are going to prove TOO HARD for this multitude! The very WORDS of Jesus are going to DRIVE AWAY this stadium-sized multitude. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN in light of the first part of the verse? If the Father

Have you ever thought about how the real Jesus — His person, His work, His words — push away far more people than the numbers who come to Him?

There is this notion that everyone wants a relationship with God — everybody is looking for God — and everybody will encounter and find God.

Jesus says exactly the opposite. What Jesus says is counter intuitive to everything that we think.

**We say**

*God —Deep-down, everybody wants to find You*

*You're supposed to take everybody and forgive everybody and love everybody and receive everybody.*

**Jesus says —**

*'No'.*

*The ones COMING to Him are the one's GIVEN by the Father.*

*Those I take — I will never drive them away.*

*The rest will be driven away by My Words.*

**<sup>38</sup>For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.**

Now, if Jesus were laboring for His own will and His own glory — He would have said — *I can do better the Moses! I'll be your bread king. I'll give you whatever you want. You be God, you come to me and tell me what you demand. I'll give you what you demand in return you will love me — and I'll have an enormous crowd of people who will all adore me.*

Jesus will not play this game — He will not let THEM play God and dictate to Him what He does.

He says — *I've come down from heaven to do the will of the Father. Not to do my own will. But to do the will of the Father.* Jesus would never cater to the multitude — He knows they won't truly believe in Him if He did. His supreme desire is to do the will of the Father.

*Behold — It's written of Me in the Volume of the Book — I delight to do Thy will. (Psalm 40:7; Hebrews 10:7)*

**<sup>39</sup>And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.**

HERE WE COME TO SOME MORE HARD WORDS — Words that have been at the core of heated controversy for centuries!

Some people say – *Oh my gosh, so and so lost their salvation, they walked away from God!* No! God does not fail. The question is – could Jesus lose somebody? If you belong to Jesus will He fail you? No, he does not. Of all that the Father brings to Him, He will lose none.

**<sup>40</sup>For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him**

It is not a matter of intellectual agreement. It isn't a matter of having an absolute understanding of Jesus. It is a matter of seeing Jesus for who He truly is — and having a deep and personal trust in Him.

**<sup>40</sup>For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”**

**HUGE** — Jesus the Truth Teller gives the CERTAINTY that they will have eternal life.

**HUGE** — Eternal life is linked to seeing Jesus as the Son of God — and having a deep and personal trust in Him. THAT is what the Father has laid out as the grounds for that Eternal life!

**AGAIN** — The is absolute certainty given by the Truth Teller — *I will raise him up at the last day.*

They HAVE eternal life — They will be kept by His power and strength. And, at the end of the age they will walk into the kingdom and enjoy life in fellowship with God in a new heaven and a new earth — forever.

*1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is*

*imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

The is absolute certainty given by the Truth Teller — *I will raise him up at the last day.*

**HARD WORDS** for this huge crowd — Jesus says — ***I am the** source and sustainer of life that is eternal. Some of you the Father has appointed to belong to me. If you are appointed to belong to me, you will come to me — you will believe in me. If you believe in me, then you will have eternal life and I will keep you to the end and I will raise you up at the end of the age. Everyone who is not being drawn by the Father — My words will push you away!*

**NOTICE THEIR RESPONSE —**

**<sup>41</sup>So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup>They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”**

**THEY GRUMBLE!**

INTERESTING — Everybody is looking at Jesus and they stop looking at Him and start talking about Him. All the sudden 25,000 people are breaking into small groups having little side conversations and no one is talking to Jesus. They are grumbling because Jesus has said for the **THIRD TIME** that He is *the bread of life that has come down from heaven.* They are grumbling because that declaration doesn't fit with what they think they know about him. They said — *How can he now say — I came down from heaven? Who is this guy? We know his mom and his dad. Our kids played little league with him. He's making it sound like he thinks he's God or something. This is insanity!*

**HUGE —** The words of Jesus about himself collide with human perceptions and human reasoning about what is possible. “*You can't be from heaven, because our eyes and ears and minds tell us you are from earth.*” And so they resist what Jesus says.

I'm going to say something a bit controversial here — And I hope I can articulate this in such a way as to not give you the wrong impression. If you read certain passages of Scripture and you say — *that sounds wonderful* — you probably misunderstood what you read. If you read certain passages of Scripture and you say — *well, that didn't trouble me at all* — You should read it again because you probably missed the point. There is a lot of Scripture that collides with our human perceptions of how things ought to be.

There are a number of places in this passage of John 6 that collide with my intellect — with my perception of how I think the plan of salvation ought to work.

**I love what Jesus says.**

**<sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves.**

He tells thousands of men and women to **Stop grumbling!**

When we the Word of God and the Ways of God collide with our perception and reasoning — we often begin to grumble and argue with God. Jesus says — ***Stop grumbling!*** We start to say — *but you don't know how I feel*. Jesus says — ***Stop grumbling! Stop complaining about who God is — how God works — what God says.***

Especially in America — everyone lives under the myth that their opinion matters. To prove my point — This week count how many times you say or hear some one say — *I feel* or *I think*. Jesus says — ***Stop your grumbling. Stop your complaining. Stop your whining. If you don't agree, it doesn't matter. It really doesn't matter.***

In response to their **grumbling** and their **resistance** to what He is telling them about himself Jesus gives them MORE HARD WORDS — the HARDEST yet!

**<sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves.**

**<sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.**

HUGE — How do you obtain salvation? It's not that you're out there, looking for God — seeking God — finding God.

*Psalm 53:2-3 God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. <sup>3</sup> They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.*

You come to Jesus because God is seeking you — God finds you — God draws you to Jesus.

I was an imbecile — I was running like crazy from God — actually running towards the opportunity to mock a guy who was following Jesus — and yet He came after me and He found me by his kind grace.

We see this in the very first Book of the Bible the Book of Genesis — The Book of Beginnings. Adam sins against God and then hides behind a tree — With his actions Adam says — *The omniscient God — the creator of heaven and earth — my maker — will never see me behind the tree, I'll just be real stiff and He won't ever know that I'm here.* That is PROOF that we are incapable of finding God on our own. Our inclination, as sons and daughters of Adam — is to HIDE from God, RUN from God, not seek Him. Our minds are so darkened by sin that we actually think we **can** hide from God — we **can** cover our nakedness. Adam is not looking for God.

God comes and he says — *Adam, where are you?*

That's exactly what Jesus says. The Father is SEEKING us and DRAWING us to Jesus.

**Back in Verse 37** Jesus said *All that the Father gives me will come to me — reach him, enter into close relationship with him.* The Father's "giving" to Jesus is described in new terms — as being "*drawn by the Father who hath sent him.*" Jesus, the Truth Teller says that NO ONE can come to Jesus UNLESS the Father draws him!

**QUOTE: PULPIT COMMENTARY** — The word ἄλκυειν almost always implies resistless or at least successful force, in the stretching of a sail, the dragging of a net, the force applied to a prisoner, the drawing of a sword ([John 18:10](#); [21:6, 11](#); [Acts 16:19](#); [James. 2:6](#)). The Pulpit Commentary: St. John Vol. I. 2004 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.) (264). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

**QUOTE:** Calvin says, “As to the kind of drawing, it is not violent, so as to compel men by external force; but still it is a powerful influence of the Holy Spirit which makes men willing who formerly were unwilling.” The Pulpit Commentary: St. John Vol. I. 2004 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.) (264). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

*Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

**QUOTE: PULPIT COMMENTARY** — The Father loves the world; the Father would have all men come to him, have access to himself. To secure this Divine result he sends forth his Son with all the attractive force of love and death. The Pulpit Commentary: St. John Vol. I. 2004 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.) (264). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

**<sup>45</sup>It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me —**

These are RELIGIOUS people. He’s telling them how to be saved. He’s telling them how to be saved. He says that if they have truly HEARD and truly LEARNED from the Father — they would embrace Jesus as the Son of God and the Bread of Life! Many of these people had MEMORIZED huge portions of the Old Testament Scriptures. Their grumbling and rejection of Jesus proves that they were merely religious — They had never HEARD and been TAUGHT by God.

**BOTTOM LINE** — Jesus is in essence saying — *you should stop this grumbling, because the perceptions and the intellect of fallen human beings are never the reason anyone comes to Me. The decisive reason anyone comes to me is that the Father draws him. The best thing to do is stop grumbling and start praying that God would change your heart and open your eyes and draw you to Me.*

THESE HARD WORDS assault our self-reliant, self-determining, self-exalting, self-absorbed presumptions about what our senses and our reason and our wills can do. One thing is certain: There is in each of us ZERO decisive impulse to come to Christ. Only God can give that.

THAT IS HARD for the natural man. THAT is why men with the highest academic achievements stumble at this. After all — why can't they find their own way to God by way of their intellect and education?

We desire, we choose, we come because we want to. But sovereign, undeserved grace is behind it all.

HARD — Isn't it?!

Then He makes this radical statement –

**<sup>46</sup>not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.**

*You want to argue and grumble about who I am and how God works? I'm the only one who's ever seen God. I just came down from heaven. I have been sitting at the right hand of the throne of God the Father for all of eternity. I am God myself. I'm telling you that THIS is how God works. If you'd like to compare resumes — we can do that. Me — I'm the omniscient, eternal Living God who has become man. You? Knuckle head. Now — what are we going to argue about?*

**<sup>47</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.**

Again — Jesus is the Truth Teller. Again — the connection between FAITH and ETERNAL LIFE.

How do you have eternal life? Not by being a good person, doing good works. Not even by listening to Jesus or enjoying His blessings.

Do you believe?

**<sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”**

You want to live forever? It's about me. You've got to partake of me. I must come in you like bread, nourish and sustain and refresh and give eternal life.

**<sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves,**

I love that. Thayer's Greek Dictionary defines DISPUTE as — to fight  
1a) of armed combatants, or those who engage in a hand to hand struggle.  
1b) of those who engage in a war of words, to quarrel, wrangle, dispute

Remember — The Greeks were Philosophers — The Jews were Theologians. So, all the young theologians step to the front of the room and they all turn theological cage fighter on their various opinions on Jesus' designation of himself.

AGAIN — They are in this state of mind because Jesus has said something that was VERY CLEAR — but VERY HARD. It collides with their take on God and how God works. Mark Twain said — *My problem is not with the parts of the bible that I find unclear or hard to understand. He says – in fact, my problem is those parts of the bible that are very clear and straight forward. Those are the ones that really trouble me.* There are tons of things in the Bible that I don't understand. Those don't bother me. It's the things that seem really clear, but insane. Those are the ones that trouble me.

So, they begin to argue with him sharply about something that is pretty clear.

**<sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”**

They think that Jesus is advocating cannibalism. So what does Jesus say to clear all of this up?

**<sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>55</sup>For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.**

**<sup>56</sup>Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.**

He has them flipping out over eating His flesh — and he throws in —*AND DRINKS MY BLOOD.*

Apart from a few isolated places on the globe cannibalism is abhorred. But for some cultures blood is not a problem. In our culture some people love their red meat RED! In EWngland they eat something called Black Pudding — It's a scab! Pig's blood and barley shaped like a sausage patty cooked in a frying pan! MMM-mm!

For the Jews, the issue of consuming blood was exceptionally abhorrent — in fact, it was forbidden by God!

*Leviticus 17:10-12* “If any one of the house of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn among them eats any blood, I will set my face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from among his people. <sup>11</sup>For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, No person among you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger who sojourns among you eat blood.

If a Pharisee swallowed a gnat they would force themselves to vomit because it hadn't been bled!

So Jesus looks at THESE people says — *Wanna know how you go to heaven? He says — easy. Eat my flesh. Drink my blood.*

*Oh! Well, of course. Obviously.*

THINK ABOUT THIS — Jesus was almost young enough to attend OPEN! The Jews were hearing this 30 something year old peasant and they were asking themselves — *what in the world is he talking about? Eat my body, drink my blood.*

Imagine that I'm 25 years younger and you walk into my office and you say — *I'm not a Christian, I'd like to be a Christian, what should I do?* I answer — *Very simple. Eat my flesh. Drink my blood.* That's when you ask — *What's plan B — Where the nearest Buddhist Temple?*

I was raised Catholic. Anybody here raised Catholic? We were taught a doctrine called Transubstantiation. That doctrine taught that just before communion the bread and the wine were became a different substance — they were no longer bread and wine but the literal body and blood of Jesus.

There is nothing in the Bible that teaches that doctrine.

THIS moment has nothing to do with communion. Up to this moment no one has ever taken communion.

None of the followers of Jesus ever took these words of Jesus as literal. No one ever tried to literally eat his flesh and drink his blood so that they could have eternal life. They took it as a metaphor.

CRUCIAL: Interpret all of Scripture literally. Some of the Bible is figuratively literal — where God uses a figure of speech to communicate something that is literally true.

Jesus literally said — *I am the Bread of Life... eat My flesh... drink My blood.* But it was intended to be understood in a figurative sense. He was using a human analogy to convey a spiritual truth, just as He did with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman. It's this issue of faith, whereby we participate in Christ's life and He nourishes our soul.

**<sup>57</sup>As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”**

You can eat bread everyday and then you'll die. Or, you can have faith in me. You feed upon Me by trusting in me, clinging to Me, relying upon Me. As bread comes into your body, so I come into your soul and I give you life. Not just life, but eternal life.

**<sup>59</sup>Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum. <sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”**

I love how the disciples would state the obvious. Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration — The Glory of Christ's divinity is shining through the veil of His humanity — Elijah and Moses appear in the glory of the coming Kingdom — they are talking to Jesus of the great deliverance that He will accomplish on the Cross — And Peter says, "It's good to be here!" Thank you for clarifying that Peter.

**"This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"** No kidding! That's a hard teaching.

These words were HARD on every level. HARD in their delivery — Hard in their content — they collided with every natural sensibility.

Jesus is highly confrontational. This is rough. This is difficult. This is harsh.

One guy quoted the words of an older pastor — *If you're ever going to teach the bible, know this — **soft** teaching produces **hard** people. If your teaching is watered down — never challenges you — never pushes hard against you — never confronts you — never causes you to wrestle with the truth — you will become a very hard person. You will become very arrogant. You will think that you have all of your answers. As a result you will become a very difficult, very unteachable person, lacking in humility and teachability. You will get harder, not softer.*

These people had become so hardened that they could look at Jesus Christ, God almighty incarnate and grumble about him. They do not demonstrate any humility or submission to the TRUTH. Instead they are combative — because their hearts were that hard. Soft teaching does that to people.

This same pastor then said — *but hard teaching produces soft people.*

***Jeremiah 23:29** Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?*

The word of God is not to be softened or diluted. It is supposed to come with authority and with strength and with might and with power and is supposed to make us soft. It's supposed to break through our pride and our arrogance and our self-sufficiency and our self-righteousness and our belief that somehow we are sovereign kings that have a right to grumble against and argue with God almighty.

They look at each other and they say – *this is a hard teaching.*

Following Jesus requires that you swim up stream. That is difficult. You will need to be strong. Christianity is not for whimps. Christianity is not for passive people who are without passion and emotion and fight. It is not. God will deal strongly, severely with you and you must be strong enough to receive that. If you do not, then you will never experience the grace that God has for you. You will never change. You will just increasingly become hard and you will never be soft enough for God to remake you into his image and likeness.

***61*But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this?**

*Have I hurt your feelings? Are you going to cry? Should we call your mom?*

That’s how some people are when they are confronted with the truth of the Word. God hurts their feelings — and they conclude that the God of the Bible is a bad God! SO they try to find someone who will water down the Bible until they have a God who won’t hurt their feelings.

**Listen** — God has some very **hard things** to say. Does the Bible offend you? If it offends you, why? Is that because God is out of line, or is that because you are? Is that because God has not spoken nicely to you, or is it because you have gotten exactly what you needed to tenderize your heart and push you back into a right relationship with God? Does this offend you?

We have this myth in our culture that if someone hurts your feelings, they have committed the unpardonable sin.

You and I need to be offended by God. It is offensive for God to say that you’ve have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God — that you’re an enemy of God — you’re dead in your trespasses and sins — All of your works are like filthy menstrual rags. If you say — *I’m offended!* Well good, you read it accurately. You should be offended!

Jesus says – does this offend you? Are your feelings hurt? Are you upset, are you sad? Will you cry? Toughen up! Toughen up! We have only started!

**<sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?**

*"If all this has offended you, what will you think when you see Me in glory, and have to answer to Me in judgment?"* Better to be offended now and to get over it, than to be offended then.

**<sup>63</sup>It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail.**

THIS IS HUGE — In our own flesh we will not understand the things of God. We will not see the things of God. We can not and will not understand God or the things of God. Remember the words of Jesus to Peter when Peter said — *"You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God"?* Jesus said — *You are blessed Simon, son of John — flesh and blood did not reveal this to you.* The Spirit of God comes and opens our eyes, calls us from death to life, provides faith and insight and conviction. The Holy Spirit has to do this.

**The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.**

The words of Jesus are of the Holy Spirit — and they transcend the natural words and wisdom of man.

And, they are life. It is so amazing to hear the LIVING Word of God that imparts LIFE.

**<sup>64</sup>But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup>And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." <sup>67</sup>So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup>and we have believed, and have come to know,**

**that you are the Holy One of God.” <sup>70</sup>Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.” <sup>71</sup>He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.**

Let’s drop this into contemporary church culture. The STRATEGY in much (not all) of contemporary church culture is to get as many people in the doors as possible — by just about any means. Because if you get a big number of people in the door surely MOST of them will believe in Jesus.

As we look at this crowd of 25,000+ the demographics say — **some** of those **aren’t** going to be Christians. That means that a lot are going to become followers of Jesus.

As we look at the 12 — we think that obviously all of those guys are going to believe Jesus and follow Him, right? I mean they had been walking around with the incarnate word of God 24/7. They’ve seen the miracles. They heard his teaching. They’ve been discipled in his ways. Certainly those are Christians. No. One of them is not. You can be with God’s people, you can hear God’s teaching, you can experience God’s power and still not believe in God. Not in a saving way.

**<sup>66</sup>After this (from this time forward) many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.**

You guys need to know, not everyone is going to be a Christian. Not everyone is going to receive eternal life. Not everyone is going to believe. Don’t take it personally. Jesus did not fail. It is not that Jesus didn’t have a clever enough argument, a convincing enough sales pitch... these people just aren’t going to believe.

They walk away. Jesus goes from 25,000+ people to 12 and even out of those 12, he says that one will betray him.

Jesus is not concerned with His own glory and the size of His crowd. He is concerned about faithfulness and speaking the truth.

Jesus asked them, in **Verse 67**, you do not want to leave me too, do you? We’re down to 12, any of you want out?

Can you imagine that? I mean, you have to be tremendously convinced that you are in a right relationship with God to do that. To go from a stadium sized crowd to a small group in a studio apartment — You would have to be really confident in what you are saying.

Jesus asked the 12 — and I love Simon Peter's answer — *Lord, to whom shall we go?* What else are we going to do? It's anything but easy following you! Your words are **HARD** and they break us down. Leaving You would be the **EASY** thing to do. We just don't know where else we would go. It's either you or nothing!

**DON'T MISS THIS** — Peter **doesn't say** — *I agree with everything you say, I understand everything you say, I love everything you say.* What he says is — *You say some HARD things. Your ways aren't our ways and Your thoughts aren't our thoughts* (top of the chapter they had to be forced to get into the boat). *Only You have the words of eternal life, we believe and know that you are the Holy One of God — So, where else are we going to go?*

Some grumble. Some argue. Peter says, that's the way it is. Peter humbly bows to the Words and ways of God. Peter has faith!