



# What's For Thanksgiving?

## John 6:60-71

## I've Made Some Observations About Religion in Our Society to Share With You

- It seems today that, in Christianity, some people believe that they are “doing Jesus a favor” by having faith
- It almost seems that people expect Jesus to come “begging them” to make a commitment to Him
- Some people believe that Jesus is so desperate for disciples, that He is happy with you, “no matter what!”
- Now I understand that Jesus loves everyone and desires all of us to be saved, 1 Timothy 2:4



- But some picture Jesus like a “street beggar” asking for change, and anything we give Him or any “half-hearted alterations” we make in our lives, makes Him “incredibly grateful!”
- Our Thought Process is like this: *“If I come to church on occasion, Jesus should be happy/grateful for that!”*
- *“Well a little devotion is better than no devotion.” “I’m doing Jesus a favor when I come to worship.”*
- It’s like helping your Aunt Johnnie move out of her house
- *“I’m such a good person because of what I’ve done”*





## But this Is Not the Picture Of Christianity in the Bible

- Jesus doesn't like behavior that is half-hearted and not fully committed
- He calls that kind of commitment, "Lukewarm" which disgusts Him; Listen to Revelations 3:16

*"So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth"*

**Jesus wants people to be serious about their Christianity!**



Jesus In  
John 6  
Explains His  
Measuring  
Stick of True  
Dedication

***“Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the son of man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in Me and I in them.***

***Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread shall live forever.”***

**John 6:53-58**



- **Jesus now shares with them a necessary truth that didn't sit well with their traditional Jewish thinking**
- **The Jews understood Manna as bread that their ancestors ate to physically sustain them when they were in the wilderness as they traveled to the promised land**
- **This was physical food provided by God for His people, along with Quail Exodus 16:1-36**
- **But Jesus is telling them that they must eat/digest His teachings to live for God**

## Observations

- **Therefore using this metaphor, Jesus starts to tell them about eating and drinking His flesh and blood**
- **Now the Jews in the O.T. were commanded to refrain from eating human flesh or drinking blood, Leviticus 17:13-14**
- **So this teaching is shocking and disgusting to the Jews**
- **To the Jews blood represented death and pain**



**But Jesus is Talking  
to the Jews About  
a Total Surrender  
of Self!**

**The Jews Would  
Have to Die to Self  
to Live for Christ  
(We Have to Do  
the Same Thing)**

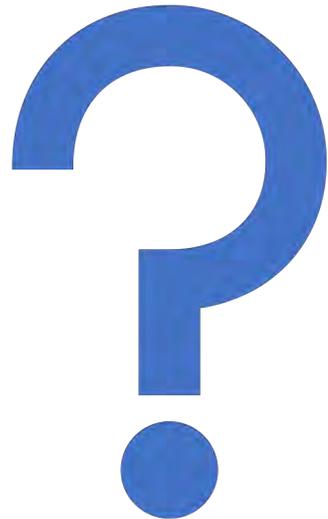




---

***So What's For  
Thanksgiving?  
You and Me  
Galatians 2:20***

The Disciples Said:  
*“This is a hard  
saying; who can  
understand it?”*



- Looking at this question carefully from His disciples, it does not mean what Jesus said to them was hard to interpret.
- What it means to them is that Jesus’ teachings would be hard to follow
- They immediately saw the ramifications of His ideas.
- They immediately saw that: *“If I literally follow Jesus, it’s going to cost me something”* Matt. 16:24



- **Some of His disciples were offended by this teaching**
  - **Some are offended by teaching simple New Testament Christianity today**
  - **Jesus says that vain worship was prominent in His day, and it is very prominent today; Matthew 15:7-9**

***“Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men ...”***



**Remember At This Point Jesus  
Was Very Popular**

**There are countless numbers of  
people following Him in John 6**

**And Jesus already knows that His  
words have offended some and were  
hard to handle**

- **And so Jesus, realizing the heart of His disciples, addresses that heart: *Jesus was aware that His disciples were complaining, so He said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend where He was before!”***
- **If Jesus’ prophecy of His sacrifice disturbed their dreams of a temporal kingdom, how about His ascension from them? Acts 1:6**

# Bible Teachings Are Replete With Hard Sayings!

- The New Birth
- Going the Second Mile
- Turning the Other Cheek
- His Teachings on Marriage, Divorce,  
Remarriage
  - Racism
- New Testament Christianity

**Children of God Are Not Permitted to  
Set Aside What Jesus Has Taught Due  
To Personal Preference**

*“I Think That ....”*



But Look At What Happened  
John 6:66

*From that time many of His disciples  
went back and walked with Him  
no more.*

- Some of the disciples left Jesus because the requirements to stay were too great. The people wanted to give a little, but Jesus expected a lot
- The people wanted a relationship with Christ, but on their terms
- Some Christians will jump from Congregation to Congregation, looking for a church with lesser accountability (nobody keeps up)

*“I’ll take some Christianity-lite  
Please!”*



As I Close Let Me Hasten to Say  
This:

- **Jesus doesn't beg people to stay with Him**
- **No one is forcing you today to commit to Christ**
- **As the desertion of Jesus continued in John 6, look at what Jesus says to His inner circle of twelve; Verse 67:**

*Do You Also Wish to leave? (My door swings both ways)*

- **Every man or woman has free will, and Jesus doesn't override that**
- **This is not a question of "angst," as if to say, "please stay."**
- **It's a question for the benefit of His disciples. (Consequences)**



**Will The Disciples Stay Or  
Will They Go?**

**The Choice Is Theirs**

**The Choice Is Yours**

**The Conditions of  
Discipleship Can Be  
Heavy Sometimes** 2 Tim. 3:12

**Some Have Already Left**

**Will You?**



## Matthew 10:37-39

---

***“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.”***



Dow

**The Choice is Yours!**

***As You Eat Your Thanksgiving Meal  
Thursday, Remember the Spiritual Meal  
That Jesus Wants You to Digest in Order  
to Become More Like Him; Galatians 2:20***



## The Plan of Salvation

**Hear the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Repent of Sins**

**Acts 17:30**

**Confess Christ**

**Acts 8:37**

**Be Baptized**

**Acts 8:38**

