



John 6:60-61,66

[60] Therefore, when many of his disciples heard this, they said, "This teaching is hard. Who can accept it?"

[61] Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, asked them, "Does this offend you?"

[66] From that moment many of his disciples turned back and no longer accompanied him.



1. We all have Defining Moments:

Choosing Where You Stand

- Just as a line drawn in the sand represents a clear decision, we must choose where we stand in our faith. Jesus calls us to be fully committed, not lukewarm.

- Joshua 24:15- "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

- Matthew 10:32-33- "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven."



2. Next Step in Faith: There's Always More with God

- No matter how close we are to God, there is always room for growth. A relationship with Christ is a journey of continual transformation, and He calls us to go deeper in faith.

- Philippians 3:12-14- "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."

- James 4:8 - "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you."



3. Living the Message: Our Life Speaks Louder Than Words

- What we say and do should reflect the work of Christ in us. Our words, actions, and attitudes should be the overflow of a transformed heart.

- Luke 6:45- "The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

- Matthew 5:16- "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

John 6 - From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. Several followers decided to not follow anymore. Within sight of the kingdom of heaven, privileged with a taste of the Bread of Life, and watching the living water flow, they nevertheless walked away. In a short sentence, John captured one of the saddest moments in the ministry of Jesus.

TEMPTED TO TURN

Why did Jesus' words cause many of his followers to desert him?

They may have realized that he wasn't going to be the conquering Messiah-King they expected.

He refused to give in to their self-centered requests.

He emphasized faith, not deeds.

His teachings were difficult to accept, and some of his words were offensive.

As we grow in our faith, we may be tempted to turn away because Jesus' lessons are difficult. When

discouragement, doubt, or confusion set in, will our response be to give up, ignore certain teachings, or reject Christ?

Instead, we must consistently ask God to show us what the teachings mean and how they apply to our lives. We must then have the courage to act on God's truth.

6:67 Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" According to the Greek, this question expects a negative answer. Jesus knew their weaknesses and how little they really understood. He knew that one of them would not only go away, but betray him also. Yet he also knew that God had chosen eleven to believe in him.

We can't stay on middle ground about Jesus. When he asked the disciples if they would also leave, he was showing them that he was not taking their faith for granted. Jesus never tried to repel people with his teachings. He simply told the truth. The more the people heard Jesus' real message, the more they divided into two camps —the honest seekers wanting to understand more, and those rejecting Jesus because they didn't like what they heard.