

Jn222 – **A Crisis of Belief - John 6:60-71**

This is our **3rd & Final Msg** –

Looking at the “**Bread of Life**” discourse

It all started back in v.22

with the **people** seeking the **wrong kind** of bread –
for the **wrong kind** of reason

So **Jesus** began this **great teaching**

by “**redirecting**” the people’s **focus**
from their **physical need** – to their **spiritual need**

& that “**redirecting**” becomes the **basis**
for the entire - “**Bread of Life**” teaching

Jesus came to **make** a **way** for **us** to have **Eternal Life**
But **sadly** - the **people** just **wanted** a **Free Lunch**

Jesus has done **all He can**
to reveal **Eternal Truths**

to these **people**
who **wanted** – only **Physical things**

Let’s Pray – We would LEARN – from THEIR MISTAKE

Our last Msg title was “Consuming Christ”

& Jesus used - consuming His flesh & Blood

to emphasize the NEED for us to make His Life
the Very Source of our Spiritual lives

Just as FOOD is the very source of our Physical Lives

& AS we saw – THAT – SHOOK the people UP
Which is what Jesus intended to do

& so – we pick up the text in Jn 6:60

on the HEELS of Jesus using the
Eat my Flesh & Drink by Blood Analogy

John 6:60 (NLT)

*60 Many of his disciples said, “This is very hard to understand.
How can anyone accept it?”*

The word “disciples” here – is referring to
ALL who were following Jesus at the time

Whether for the right reasons – or for the wrong reasons

& Jesus is purposefully bringing these people –
to a Spiritual Crossroads – to a Crisis of Belief

& Today - they are AT that Spiritual Crossroads

& they are going to have to CHOOSE

To either - believe & receive - or reject and deny –
the Claims of Jesus

Jesus has clearly said:

He is “equal with God”

He has come down from Heaven

Eternal life comes thru “consuming (taking in) His life”

& for those who were really Focused on –
just “Another Free Lunch”

This SHOOK THEM UP

they were just hoping Jesus would give them
what they needed for THIS LIFE

So Jesus needed to bring them
to a Critical DECISION POINT

JUST AS - Jesus needs to bring US
to a Critical DECISION POINT

We call it – A CRISIS of BELIEF

& it is at OUR “Crisis of Belief” that we choose
to EITHER - Believe & Receive - or Reject and Deny

The Claims of Jesus Christ

& So – Jesus addresses the people in

John 6:61–62 (NLT)

61 Jesus was aware that his disciples (the crowd followers) **were complaining, so he said to them, “Does this offend you?”**

62 Then what will you think if you see the Son of Man ascend to heaven again?

FIVE TIMES in this conversation Jesus has said
“I am the Bread of Life that has down from Heaven”

Now he says – ***“If THAT Offends you – what are you going to think when you see me ASCEND BACK to Heaven?”***

The people’s **REAL OFFENSE** is now about
WHO Jesus is claiming to **BE**

The **real issue** is no longer about the **FREE LUNCH**
It’s about the **LINE IN THE SAND** Jesus is drawing

<p><u>Will</u> these people <u>believe & receive</u> - or <u>will</u> they <u>reject and deny</u> – the <u>clear claims</u> of <u>Jesus</u></p>

Jesus is SIFTING the people

He’s separating those
who **will** **Put their Faith** in **Who** Jesus **IS**

From those who are **just looking**
for **what** **Jesus** can **DO for them**

& the NEXT VERSE Explains WHY - some will RECEIVE
& some will REJECT - the Words of Jesus

John 6:63 (NLT)

63 The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

The Spirit alone gives eternal life.

Salvation AND Spiritual Understanding
come from the **Holy Spirit** alone

they **Do NOT Come** from **Human Effort** –
Human Reasoning – or **Human Perception**

This is **really important** to **understand**

Back in **John Ch 3** – Jesus said, ***“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”***

The **FLESH** can only **Produce**
Human Reasoning and **Human understanding**

But **Salvation** & **Spiritual Understanding**
come **ONLY** from the **Holy Spirit**

1 Corinthians 2:14 is Key to understanding this (NLT)

14 But people who aren't spiritual (don't have the Spirit) can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to

them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual (have the Spirit) can understand what the Spirit means.

**It is your Faith in Jesus – that gives you
the Spiritual Understanding of the Words of Jesus**

**Have you ever known a person – who tried to read the Bible
but didn't feel like they were getting much out of it**

& then - they CHOSE to put their Faith in Jesus

& Suddenly – the Bible came ALIVE to them

**& they STARTED understanding
what they could NOT understand before?**

When you Genuinely Believe – By Faith

The Holy Spirit comes alive in you - & you begin to understand
what Jesus says at the end of V. 63

John 6:63 (NLT)

63 . . . And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

You begin to understand – the words of Jesus
are words of the Spirit - & are words of Eternal Life

You BELIEVE - & THEN – You SEE

BUT . . . Unfortunately – V.64 starts with a BUT

John 6:64(a) (NLT)

64(a) But some of you do not believe me.” . . .

**there are some of you who DO NOT Understand
that my words are the words of Eternal Life**

BECAUSE you DO NOT BELIEVE

These people are Following Jesus (in a sense)

**But they are in the process – Right Now
of Making a Decision – to NOT believe**

**& THAT Decision is causing them –
to NOT GRASP – the words of Life Jesus is sharing with them**

Jesus is saying

You DO NOT Understand – BECAUSE You DO NOT Believe

& then - John 6:64(b) adds (NLT)

64(b) . . . (For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn't believe, and he knew who would betray him.)

Some have heard His words,

**but the Spirit's life-giving work has not taken root in them –
Because they REFUSE to Believe**

**Their rejection isn't because - His teaching is unclear
Their rejection is because – They REFUSE to Believe**

& interestingly – this Vs also introduces
the reality of Judas' eventual betrayal of Jesus

because Judas is the ultimate example

of someone who is “following” Jesus – (in one sense)

But not Truly Believing in WHO Jesus Christ actually IS

Now – in v.65 – for the 4th time in this discourse

Jesus addresses one of the most

“spiritually discerned” truths in the entire Bible

We've already seen this truth 3 Times in this text

& we've explained these statements ea time

& Jesus RETURNS to this Deep Spiritual Truth again in

John 6:65 (NLT)

65 Then he said, “That is why I said that people can’t come to me unless the Father gives them to me.”

Jesus is NOT Implying here that the Father
WITHHOLDS Salvation from ANY person

That IS NOT what this vs says –

& that is NOT what this Vs. implies

Jesus is referring to the incredible
“double truth” of our salvation

the truth of “God’s Part”
& the truth of “Our Part”

God’s <u>GRACE</u> to <u>DRAW US</u> to Jesus – <u>That’s GOD’S PART</u> Our <u>FAITH</u> to <u>BELIEVE</u> in Jesus – <u>That’s OUR PART</u>
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& Some People TRY REALLY HARD to Understand -
(especially) - God’s Part of this EQUATION

But – Here is the funny thing about that

The Bible is 100% - Absolutely – Unmistakenly Clear
That You & I – CANNOT Understand God

We CANNOT Understand God’s WAYS
We CANNOT Understand God’s PART

BUT - The GOOD NEWS is

The Bible is just as EQUALLY CLEAR
that we Absolutely CAN understand - OUR PART

& OUR PART – Is to BELIEVE & RECEIVE

THAT is what this entire
“Bread of Life Discourse” has been about

Unfortunatley – there were **many following** Jesus
(in a **superficial sense**) who **did not Believe** – **WHO He WAS**
& **because** of their **unbelief**
their **hearts were hardened** to these **Eternal Spiritual truths**

& we **see** the **Devastating Result** of that - in **v.66**

John 6:66 (NLT)

66 At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him.

“**Disciples**” in this Vs – **refers** to the “**Casual Followers**”
Not to the **True Believers** who were **with** Jesus

BUT – Look closely at this Vs.

Do you **have** a **favorite VS** in the Bible?

if the **Devil** had a **Favorite verse** in the Bible –
THIS would **HAVE** to be it, right? – **John 6:66**

John is **The Book** of **Salvation** In the N.T.

& so **Vs 666 would** have to be the **devil's favorite** for sure

At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him.

Those who **refused** to believe - **couldn't understand** -
so they **turned away** - & **Deserted Jesus**

They went from:

- 1) **FASCINATION** with his miracles
- 2) to **CONFUSION** about his teaching
- 3) to **REJECTION** of his claims

That makes this – a **SIFTING MOMENT**

Jesus is separating the **SUPERFICIAL**
From the **COMMITTED**

In **fact** – this is a **Turning Point**
in the **Popularity** of **Jesus** with the **Masses**

His **teaching** begins to **SHIFT** here – **More** to **LORDSHIP**
& the **Superficial Followers** – Begin to **FADE AWAY**

BUT – **NOTICE** – Jesus **DOESN'T chase** after these **people**

& also **Notice** – **Here** & **Everywhere** in the **Gospels**

Jesus **Preaches** for **LOYALTY** and **COMMIMENT**
He **never Preaches** for **NUMBERS**

MANY, Many MORE people LEFT this day – than Stayed

The **Miracle-Seekers** are **GONE**
& The **Fence-Sitters** are **GONE**

& so **now** – **Jesus** turns to the **Original Twelve**

With **his eyes** searching **right** into their **SOULS**

& he asks them a question
that cuts to the heart of every Christ-Follower

John 6:67 (NLT)

67 Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, “Are you also going to leave?”

This is a LOVING challenge of Self-Examination

It's a challenge for Each of THEM – AND for Each of US –

to Check our Hearts - & to Check our Motives

“Are you also going to leave?”

“Are you also going to walk away?”

Jesus allows us – even his Closest Disciples –

The CHOICE to Reject him and Walk away

& He is certainly offering that HERE – to the 12

But True Christ-Following – means

facing hard moments, and facing hard seasons,
WITH JESUS - & without walking away from him

& there is a time – when Jesus will TAKE YOU to the
Spiritual Crossroads - & he will ask you the same question

“Are you also going to leave?”

“Are you also going to walk away?”

& when Jesus takes you there – KNOW THIS

He is NOT doing it – to drive you away

He's doing it to give you a chance

to REAFFIRM your TRUST

& REAFFIRM your COMMITMENT to him

For YOUR Spiritual Good

& So – with that Peircing Challenge

Paralysing the 12 (for a moment)

Peter Decides to Answer for them ALL

John 6:68 (NLT)

68 Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life.

This must be an IMMOVABLE FOUNDATION

for every true Christ-Follower

there are times in each of our Lives

when we need an IMMOVABLE FOUNDATION

that we can FALL on – that we can REST securely on

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE FOUNDATIONS !

When you find your **faith shaken** -
by this **world** – or by the **enemy**

this Vs is one you can **REST** on - as a **SURE FOUNDATION**

“Lord, to whom would I go? You have the words of eternal life

When **NOTHING ELSE** Makes **SENSE** -
THIS Commitment Makes Sense

& **then** – **Peter follows up** with the **WHY**

THIS is **WHY** we can **Absolutely Rest & Rely**
on this is an **IMMOVABLE FOUNDATION**

It's because of **What we BELIEVE**, & **What we KNOW**
about **WHO Jesus Christ IS**

John 6:69 (NLT)

69 We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.”

Peter speaks with Strong Conviction,

not because he **understands everything**,
but because he **trusts Jesus completely**

& a True Disciple Continues to Follow Jesus

not because he **understands everything**,
but because he **trusts Jesus completely**

Jesus Christ **alone** has the **words of eternal life**
& He alone is our **SAVIOR**, our **LORD**, our **GOOD SHEPHERD**

& when we believe THAT – at the very CORE of ourselves

Then WE will say with Peter:

“Lord, to whom would I go? You alone have the words of eternal life

*& I believe, and I know you are my SAVIOR, my LORD,
my GOOD SHEPHERD, and a dozen other wonderful things.”*

Now, there’s just one other thing

When Peter Spoke ON BEHALF of the 12
Jesus decided to make one small correction

John 6:70–71 (NLT)

70 Then Jesus said, “I chose the twelve of you, but one is a devil.”

71 He was speaking of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, one of the Twelve, who would later betray him.

It’s like a P.S. in a letter

Like, *oh yeah, there’s just one other thing*

Did ALL 12 of the original Disciples
Rest ALL their lives - on these truths Peter just spoke?

NO – they didn’t – NOT All of Them

Jesus knew Judas Iscariot - just like He knows each of us
perfectly & completely

& so Jesus had to correct Peter – About Judas

But Jesus makes a powerful point here

Even those who LOOK like they are Truly Following Jesus -
May NOT Truly Be

They may have

their own agendas - their own ideas - their own views

& when Jesus doesn't fit - their Agendas, Ideas, & Views

It will SHOW – in their Actions

So - We started this Ch - with 5,000 being Fed By Jesus

& we ended with a HANDFUL of Faithful - Remaining with him

& ALL these people - fell into just one of two categories –

1) those who Believe – & Receive Everlasting life

2) those who Deny - & Reject – *Everlasting Life*

& ea of us - are in one of those SAME two categories

Either we BELIEVE that Jesus Christ alone -
has the Words of Eternal Life

OR – we REJECT ALL that Jesus claims to be
& continue to seek - in vain - the things of this world

Let's Pray