

5-Day Devotional: When Following Gets Hard

Day 1: The Difficulty of Truth

Read: John 6:60-65

"When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?'" (John 6:60)

Sometimes Jesus says things that challenge everything we thought we knew. The crowd in John 6 wasn't confused—they understood exactly what Jesus was asking: complete surrender. That's what made it hard.

Today, we face the same choice. Belief isn't proven when it makes sense to us—it's proven when it doesn't, and we choose Jesus anyway.

Reflect: What teaching of Jesus feels hardest for you right now? Is it hard because you don't understand it, or because you do?

Prayer: Jesus, help me move from agreement to submission. I don't need to understand everything—I just need to trust you.

Day 2: Proximity vs. Devotion

Read: John 6:66

"After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him." (John 6:66)

This is one of the saddest verses in Scripture. Many people walked *with* Jesus but ultimately walked *away* from Him. They were close enough to see the miracles but not committed enough to embrace the cost.

Proximity to Jesus is not the same as devotion to Jesus. Just showing up isn't enough.

Reflect: Am I a professor (talking about faith) or a possessor (living it out)? What's the difference in my life?

Prayer: God, I don't want borrowed faith. I want to own my relationship with you—not based on my family, my tradition, or my comfort.

Day 3: Where Else Would We Go?

Read: John 6:67-69

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68)

When Jesus asked the twelve if they wanted to leave too, Peter's response was stunning: "Where else would we go?"

Peter didn't say, "This is easy." He said, "You're the only one worth following."

That's the heart of true faith—not understanding everything, but knowing there's nothing better than Jesus.

Reflect: Have I tried other things to fill the void only Jesus can fill? What would it look like to stop drifting and fully commit?

Prayer: Jesus, even when your words are hard and others walk away, I choose you. You alone have the words of life.

Day 4: Believing Precedes Knowing

Read: John 6:69

"We have believed, and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:69)

Notice the order: Peter and the disciples *believed* first, then they *came to know*. We often want it backward—we want to know everything before we believe.

But faith doesn't work that way. Spiritual truth requires spiritual surrender. As we trust Jesus, understanding grows.

Reflect: Am I waiting to understand everything before I obey? What would it look like to believe first and let knowing follow?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, illuminate your truth to me as I walk in obedience. Help me trust what I don't yet fully understand.

Day 5: Own Your Faith

Read: Joshua 24:14-15

"Choose this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15)

There's coming a day when your faith can't be borrowed from your parents, your church, or your past. You'll stand before Jesus based on *your* choice.

Today is that day. Will you choose Jesus—not because it's easy, convenient, or popular—but because He's worth it?

Reflect: Is my faith my own, or am I coasting on someone else's? What does full surrender look like for me today?

Prayer: God, I choose you. Not my comfort, not my agenda, not my way—just you. Transform me from the inside out.

Blog Post: When Following Jesus Gets Hard

We live in a culture that worships convenience. We want fast food, fast Wi-Fi, and faith that doesn't cost us anything.

But Jesus never promised easy.

In John 6, after Jesus teaches about being the bread of life and calls people to complete surrender, the Bible says something stunning: *"After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him"* (John 6:66).

Thousands walked away. They'd seen the miracles. They'd eaten the multiplied fish and bread. But when Jesus asked for total commitment? They bailed.

The Hard Part Isn't Understanding—It's Surrendering

Here's what we miss: The crowd wasn't confused. They understood exactly what Jesus was asking. He was calling them to forsake everything else and follow Him alone. The difficulty wasn't intellectual—it was personal.

It demanded too much.

Sound familiar? How many of us say we follow Jesus but keep our schedules, our money, our relationships, and our dreams on lockdown? We want Jesus as an advisor, not as Lord.

But that's not how this works.

Peter's Response Changes Everything

When the crowds left, Jesus turned to His twelve disciples and asked, *"Do you want to go away as well?"*

Peter's response is one of the greatest confessions in Scripture: *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life"* (John 6:68).

Peter didn't say, "This is easy." He didn't say, "I've got it all figured out." He said, "Where else would I go? You're the only one worth following."

That's real faith. Not understanding everything, but trusting the One who does.

Three Questions to Ask Yourself Today

1. **Am I resisting something Jesus has made clear because it feels too costly?** Maybe it's forgiveness, generosity, purity, or surrender. What's the one thing you keep holding back?
2. **Is my relationship with Jesus based on what I receive from Him or who He is to me?** Do you love Jesus for His blessings or for Himself?
3. **When following Jesus becomes difficult, do I lean in or drift away?** When the teaching gets hard, when obedience costs something, what do you do?

Jesus Wants All of You

A pastor once told someone heading to prison for secret sin: *"Jesus wants us all in, and He is not honored by the dark corners of our lives."*

That's the truth we need today. No more compartments. No more "just enough" to check the religious box. Jesus doesn't want part of you—He wants all of you.

Where else are you going to go?

He alone has the words of eternal life.