

## "Attention: This is Only a Test!" - John 6:1-6

**NKJV-** "After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberius. Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near.

Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, **"Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?"** But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do."

**In 2010 a South Korean woman demonstrated that perseverance pays off.** After 960 attempts, 69-year-old Cha Sa-soon passed all the tests and was awarded a driver's license. South Korea requires 2 **TESTS**, both a written and driving test before a person can receive a license. Cha took the written test almost every day since April 2005. Once passing that requirement, Cha began to work on the driving portion. Although it took ten attempts, Cha finally achieved her goal.

**James Bain went to prison in 1974, when he was 19 years old.** Authorities released him just before Christmas in 2009, as a 54-year-old man. James served 35 years of a life sentence given to him when the state of Florida convicted him of kidnapping and raping a 9-year-old boy. He wasn't pardoned or paroled. But then he took a **TEST**, a DNA test, which proved him innocent. This means that James spent 35 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit. Released on the order of a judge, he said 'I'm not angry,' he said. 'Because I've got God.'

**A man thinks his wife is losing her hearing. A doctor suggests that he try a simple at-home TEST:** Stand behind her, ask her a question from different distances, and see when she can hear it. The man goes home, sees his wife in the kitchen facing the stove, and asks from the door, "What's for dinner tonight?" No answer. Ten feet behind her, he repeats, "What's for dinner tonight?" Still no answer. Finally, right behind her he says, "What's for dinner tonight?" His wife turns around and says, "For the third time—chicken." - Jesus taught us to look at ourselves, before we evaluate others.

### I. The Principle of **EVALUATION**. (v.1-6)

In Scripture, we learn that **God TESTS our FAITH** to grow/mature us:

- **James 1:12-** "God blesses those who **patiently endure testing** and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."
- **James 1:2-3-** "Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that **when your faith is tested**, your endurance has a chance to grow."
- **1 Peter 1:6-7-** "There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. **It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold**- though your faith is far more precious than mere gold."

Here in John 6, we learn that **God TESTS our FAITH** in 4 primary ways:

• **#1 - Jesus tests us with DIFFICULTY.**

- **Gen 22:1-2**- "Some time later, **God tested Abraham's faith**. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am." "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering.."
- **Rev 2:10**- "Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. **The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you**. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life."
- **2 Cor 8:1-2**- "Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. **They are being tested by many troubles**, and they are very poor."

• **#2 - Jesus tests us with DEMANDS.**

- **John 15:10,14**- "When you **obey My commandments**, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love... You are **my friends if you do what I command**."
- **Matt 7:21**- "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. **Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter**."
- **Exodus 16:4**- "...the LORD said to Moses, "Look, I'm going to rain down food from heaven for you. Each day the people can go out and pick up as much food as they need for that day. **I will test them in this** to see whether or not they will follow my instructions."
- **Hebrews 11:17-19**- "It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. **Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac**, even though God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted." Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead."
- **2 Cor 2:9-10**- "I wrote to you as I did **to test you and see if you would fully comply with My instructions**. When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too.."

• **#3 - Jesus tests us with DOLLARS**

- **Gal 6:7,9-10** - "Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. **You will always harvest what you plant**... So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time **we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up**. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone - especially to those in the family of faith."

- **Luke 6:38-** "*Give, and you will receive! Your gift will return to you in full - pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.*"
- **2 Cor 8:7-8-** "*Since you excel in so many ways - in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us - I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is.*"

• **#4 - Jesus tests us with DELAYS.**

- **Ecc 3:11-** "*..God has made everything beautiful for its own time.*"
- **James 1:3-4-** "*For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance ('patience') has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.*"
- **Heb 6:12 -** "*..follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance('patience').*"

**GOD the SON, can help you, when you are in the middle of the TESTING & TRAINING:**

- **Hebrews 2:18-** "*Since He Himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is able to help us when we are being tested.*"
- **Hebrews 4:15-16-** "*This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.*"