



When God Doesn't Do What You Want Him To John 6:66-69

Disappointment, like a fever, can be low-grade when little things don't go our way. Then there are high-grade disappointments. These can leave us with a deep ache in our soul and disappointments that ask, *Why didn't God...?* or to think, *I thought God would...*

These are times when faith is refined in the fire, and we can be renewed in faith or walk away from faith. Refining can make someone glow, or someone go. *Where have you seen someone glow "in the fire?"*

Where have you experienced disappointment with God? What expectations were not met? What prayers unanswered?

There are several responses to deep disappointment that we'll see in today's text. Some walk away from God. Others patch-up pain in escape behaviors. A minority wrestle with God, as did Jacob, and Jesus' disciples. It's here we find that:

Disappointment with God can lead to discoveries about God!

It's what the crowd missed in today's story, and what the disciples experienced.

“After this...” *What happened that caused some disciples to turn away? Some background:*

1) Chapter six opens with the feeding of the multitude. After this, the people try to force Jesus to be king. Jesus withdraws from

them, refusing to accommodate to their desires.

2) The disciples get into a boat, Jesus walks to them upon the sea, and they are brought safely to shore.

3) The crowd searches and finds on the other side of the sea. Jesus calls their bluff in their desire for more food. They, in turn, ask for a sign. Jesus refuses their request.

4) Jesus refers to “bread from heaven,” and the crowd expects another miracle like the manna in the days of Moses. Jesus offers Himself as the Bread of Life and invites them to eat of Him. The crowd grumbles in disappointment.

Verses 66-69:

⁶⁶: This must be one of the saddest verses in the New Testament.

⁶⁷: Jesus’ question has at its crux, “Will you follow Me...”

When I don’t act according to your desires?

When I don’t meet your expectations of Me?

When you don’t understand why?

When life is filled with the ache of unanswered questions?

Will you follow Me even if...? Will you follow Me even when...?

⁶⁸: Peter's response to Jesus is the answer to a thousand of life's difficulties/mysteries. "Yes, I will follow..."

So, Jesus asks, "Do you want to go away as well?"

For those who respond like Peter:
Disappointment with God can lead to discoveries about God!

Peter had no idea, nor do we, of what awaited Him in Christ!

How is Jesus' question hitting you today? How is the Holy Spirit intersecting with your life right now? Pray that we would be a church that follows in the footsteps of the untold multitudes who responded like Peter!