

I. Intro

A. Text: **Jn. 6:53-54, 59-66**

⁵³ Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

⁶⁰ Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?” ⁶¹ When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶² What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.” ⁶⁶ From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. (Jn. 6:53-54, 60-66)

B. Series Overview

1. Many of us are offended at God.
 - a. God has a way of exposing our hearts.
2. This series focuses on some of Jesus’ most difficult/hard sayings.
 - a. Difficult To Understand
 - b. Difficult to Accept.

C. Scriptural Context

1. Near the time of Passover (**v. 4**)
2. Jesus just fed 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 loaves (**v. 5-14**)
 - a. Next day multitudes followed Jesus to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (**v. 22-25**)

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- b. Jesus' response was to point out that the crowd only wanted him for His bread. (v. 26)
 - 3. The work of a Disciple
 - a. Don't work (labor) for temporary bread (v. 27)

²⁷ Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” (Jn. 6:27)

- b. Give us a work that pleases God (v. 28)
 - i. **Believe** in Him whom the Father has sent (v. 29)
- 4. The work of Jesus

³⁰ Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? (Jn. 6:30)

- a. What work will you do that we should **believe** in You? (v. 30)

⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. (Jn. 6:48-50)

- i. I will give you Living Bread → You will never die. (v. 50)

II. Body

A. The Living Bread is The Flesh of Jesus (v. 51)

⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” ⁵² The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?” ⁵³ Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. (Jn. 6:51-53)

- 1. Teaching Premise

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- a. Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood... no life! (v. 53)
 - i. Whoever eats His flesh and drinks His blood has eternal life (v. 54)
 - b. This was clearly a teaching that was difficult to swallow

⁵⁵ For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. (Jn. 6:55-56)

- i. Eating His flesh is the equivalent of believing. (v. 35)

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (Jn. 6:35)

2. The Offense (v. 60-64)

⁶⁰ Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?" ⁶¹ When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶² What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. (Jn. 6:60-64)

- a. Many of His disciples were offended.
- b. Jesus revealed that some were following, but did not believe. (v. 64)
- c. Many walked away. (v.66)

⁶⁶ From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. (Jn. 6:66)

B. This Was certainly a Hard Saying

- 1. Difficult To Understand vs. Easy To Understand, Yet Difficult to Accept.

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2. The Typical Jew Had the Tools to Understand this metaphor.
- a. It was the gross picture of the sacrifice that offended many.
 - b. Every Jew of that day understood the implications of a sacrifice.
 - i. Most offerings were either burnt completely or most of it burned, with the rest consumed by the priestly family.
 - ii. The Peace Offering was an exception.
 - iii. The Passover was probably the most known exception.
 - c. In the Passover, the offerer had to kill the lamb himself (instead of a priest).

⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. ⁷ And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. ⁸ Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. ¹¹ And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. (Ex. 12:5-11)

- d. Constant smell of the stench of blood.
- e. Constant reminder that the innocent was slaughtered for the guilty
- f. Constant reminder that freedom was not free.
- g. The innocent lamb (as awful a sight as that may have been) was eaten by those it covered.
 - i. Bitter meal, eaten completely, eaten quickly

III. Conclusion

- A. To Eat the Flesh of the Lamb was to believe in its power to cover and deliver (**v. 35**).

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1. Not simply an intellectual assent of things to be true.
 - a. Required a belief that produces the proof by obedience, reliance, etc.
 - b. Believers in the Passover sacrifice ate a bitter, unpleasant, rushed, hard-to-swallow meal.
 - i. They knew that believing meant participation with, trusting in.

B. To Eat the flesh of Jesus is to abide in His power to cover and deliver
(v. 56)

⁵⁶ *He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. (Jn. 6:56)*

1. Not simply an intellectual assent of His saving power to be true.
 - a. Requires a belief that produces the proof by obedience, reliance, etc.
 - b. Believers in Jesus as the Passover sacrifice eat a bitter, unpleasant, hard-to-swallow meal.
 - i. Well aware that believing means participation with, trusting in.