

All Christians Aren't Christians

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John 6:60-71

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So I received an odd, even strange, bit of comfort from our text this week. I mean, there is a special blessing in not just being a pastor, but in being your pastor. I am blessed beyond words at the privilege of being the pastor of this church. I get a front row seat for some of the best, most important events in a person's life, like their salvation or their baptism, their wedding, even the birth of some of their kid. I get to see that, things that they will remember for all of their lives. For a lot of that, I get to be there front row. The highs of ministry, like knowing God just used me to save somebody, or to rescue them out of false teaching, or to transform their lives. There's nothing like that. It's amazing.

However, the lows of ministry are incredibly low. And no doubt the lowest part of ministry, the worst part is not betrayal or slander, people believing the worst, or the apathy, or the selfish demands, or people's lack of trust, or hypocrisy or immaturity. The worst part isn't even people leaving the church, as sad as that is sometimes. Took you a second there. Took you a second. No. The worst part of ministry is people you know, people you see on a regular basis, people you spend time with, people that you can honestly say that you love, the worst part of ministry is watching those people leave Christ. That's the worst.

The names are changed to protect the guilty, but there's Kevin. Lived perfect neighborhood, husband, two great sons, counseled him for years. But he started listening to false teaching, and decided, I'm going to leave my marriage. I'm going to leave my wife, leave my kids. And though deceived to this day about being saved, he left Christ. And what he did, even led to church discipline to try to win him back, but to no avail.

There's Julia. Came out of a life of substance abuse and occult phenomena. Was on fire for the Lord at church. Every time the doors were open, reading her Bible, ministering to others. But a non-Christian guy came along. She left Christ to have him. Or there's Alex, a young man who was a leader in a ministry I once pastored. He was the model college-aged Christian. Loved the Lord and the Word, always wanting to learn and grow, and even wanted to go into ministry, but was hurt by some Christian friends. And as a result of that, not only abandoned ministry, but abandoned Christ as well.

And there's Abby too. Nothing quite hurts like this one. Her dad and I really good friends. She gets radically saved out of a life of sin. And so I thought, at least, I was like a big brother. So I'd take her to church, and I'd talk to her for hours about the truth. I'd even take her out witnessing with me in Santa Monica. And when she wanted to go to college, I wrote the pastoral reference. Absolutely. Go, you'll be great. That'll be awesome. Wanted to be equipped for ministry even, so she'd be an asset to whatever church she started going to. But one rogue teacher at that university

and breaking up with her boyfriend. Today she's taken all of that knowledge, and she is now a false teacher. Using her knowledge of the Bible to help others leave Christ just like she has.

When they leave Christ, when they defect, when they renounce Jesus, the Jesus they once seemed to adore, that is the worst. Nothing quite hurts like that, and the odd, even strange, bit of comfort I received from this text is that Jesus knows this pain. John 6:26-58 describe a back and forth between Jesus and some of the people there that day in the crowd, and then some religious leaders as well. We spent six weekends on those 32 verses because they're so rich and they're so helpful, I didn't want us to miss a thing.

But then after that interaction, starting in verse 60, there is the response of his disciples. People that have connected themselves to him. How would they respond, not to this miraculous feeding of the 5,000, which is really like 10,000 to 20,000 with five loaves and two fish. No, everybody loves that. Everyone's blown away by that. No. How would they respond to his words? How would they respond to his explanation? What is it that they should understand about that event?

Sadly, what we see, what we will learn from this tragic text, is that all Christians aren't Christians. All Christians are not Christians, and it's not just a few. Look at verse 60. How many are there? What's the word? It's many. Look at verse 66. How many were that walked away? How many? A few, handful? Many. It's many who called themselves Christians who have attached themselves to Jesus, but who aren't really the real thing. Like some of you here right now. If it's not today, someday you will read something in the Bible or you will hear me or somebody else say some truth in the Bible, and that will be it. You'll be offended. You'll find it unbelievable. It won't match what you think is true, what you feel should be right, and you will leave.

Or you've been following Jesus, yes, but at a distance. You've never really given your life to him. You've been putting on a show and you know it. Eventually it won't be authentic, it won't work for you anymore, and you'll go. Or you've been following Jesus, but if you're honest, it's not really for him. It's for some earthly benefit that you want to get from him, like a good spouse or purpose in life. Or my kids need a solid foundation, or I need community, or it's health or wealth, or it's comfort, and when you don't get it, see you.

Or you will want something so bad, you'll want it so bad, and you know Jesus is against it. You know the pastors here will discourage you from that. They will beg you not to go there, but it won't matter. You'll want it so bad that you will leave, starting on the path that so many have been on, to leave Christ. It may fool family and friends and your pastors, and even yourself, but it never fools Christ. Look at verse 64. Look at the parentheses. It says, "Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe."

It's not just true of the people there that day. It's true for all of us. Those defections that I described earlier, those shocked me, rocked me, but not him. Because he can see the heart, he can see the truth about us. Truth that we may not even know about ourselves at this moment. But it's because he knows the truth about our hearts, that a text like this is so critical for us to

understand, because this text is going to diagnose the truth about us in light of who God is. It's going to tell us what we really are, not just on the outside but on the inside.

As all true preaching does, Jesus' preaching divided the people there that day into three kinds of people. These people had the infinite privilege of hearing the words of John 6 with their own ears. It divided them first into those who totally reject. We've already seen those in previous messages. Then there's, second, those who truly believe. We'll see those at the end. Then there's those, third, who temporarily believe. Those who follow for a while, those who seem to be the real thing, those who attach themselves to Jesus and attach themselves to those who truly believe, but who are fake.

It's the fake Christians who respond first to Jesus' message about being the bread of life. Look at verse 60. It says, "When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This is a hard saying. Who can listen to it?'" You might be confused by that word disciple because, depending on the context, a disciple is a Christian or it is somebody who joined the group, who expressed some kind of devotion to Jesus, but really, they're Christian in name only. They're not the real thing.

And their question here exposes their hearts because they dismiss his words as unacceptable. They judge his message based on how it made them feel rather than based on who it was that was giving the message, namely the greatest preacher who ever lived because he's the Lord, because he's the God Man. As long as you're going to give them free food and miraculous healings, and maybe even freedom from Roman oppression, these selfish, superficial disciples, they're all in. They have no problem hanging around to see if they're going to get more stuff.

But now at this moment, verse 60, after they've heard him say all of this stuff, they're done putting up with him. That word hard in verse 60 means that he was too harsh. Not that it was too hard for them to understand. The truth that comes from Jesus' infinitely perfect mind were just too much for them to deal with this. They are offended. And Jesus points this out, and notice verse 61. "But Jesus knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, 'Do you take offense at this? Are you offended by what I've been saying?'" This interaction, like all of Jesus' interaction, is an act of sheer grace. John 2: 25 says, "He knows the truth about all people."

So, he calls out their complaints about him, their complaints about his word, and then graciously notice he presses in. "Then what if you see the son of man ascending to where he was before?" The idea is this, will you still be offended when I ascend back to heaven and it becomes clear that I'm actually God in the flesh, I have authority over all people for all time. Will you still be offended, or will that be what you need to understand that my words are true and should be embraced and not rejected?

Then after calling out their refusal to believe in him, what Jesus does next, starting in verse 63, is he explains why it is that they refuse to believe in him. Look at verse 63. "It's the Spirit who gives life. The flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." Translation, it's God's spirit using God's word is the cause, the source of personal salvation.

That's it. Apart from the work of the Spirit, all people can do is be offended by the truth. Because according to verse 63, they are flesh. Flesh refers to human nature left on its own apart from the work of God and the soul. Humanity is, as only flesh, without God working in their souls, notice verse 63, is helpless. Helpless to do anything other than reject Christ.

His words, as are all the words in the Bible, are authored by the Spirit. Verse 63, and these words are not only authored by the Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, God, the Holy Spirit. They not only come from God, but they bring people eternal life. Saving faith is not something that we all have the ability to do in and of ourselves because there's nothing inside of us as humans. No free will, no innate goodness, no ability to reason, that can do for us what only God's spirit using God's word can do, which is save our souls. We are flesh. It's a reiteration of John 3:6 that, "Which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the spirit is spirit." The purely human, the fleshly, the purely human apart from God's grace cannot make a spiritual being. There's nothing in us that can make us a spiritual being.

For that to happen, the work of the Spirit using God's word is required. Well, without that, the conclusion is verse 64. But in contrast to everything I said in verse 63, which is not happening to you, in verse 64, "But there are some of you who don't believe." In other words, the Spirit gives life, as do my words. But since you don't believe in me, that's proof that neither the Spirit nor my word has done any work in you. You remain flesh, spiritually dead, apart from God's grace.

Then what he does is he reveals the bottom line. He goes one step further, and he says, hey, here's another reason why you're rejecting me. It's not just that the Spirit hasn't worked in you. It's not just my word hasn't worked in you, but the Father hasn't worked in you either. Verse 65. And he said, "This is why I told you, going back to verse 44, "this is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." What does the it refer to? Look at it again. "One can come to me unless it," referring back to come to me, "no one can come to me unless coming to me is granted him by the Father." Basically, a repeat of verse 44, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him."

So, what is he doing with these people in this moment? Think about it. He's saying to them your unbelief proves the Father hasn't drawn you to me, verse 44, proves, verse 65, that he hasn't given you the faith that you need to believe in me. That is why you're rejecting me, and the result after all of that is one of the saddest, most tragic verses in all the Bible, verse 66 again. "After this, many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him."

Imagine the grace that these people had. Think about that for a second. They had the privilege of all privileges. They got to see Jesus with their own eyes. They got to hear Jesus with their own ears. Christian, how much would you give to have that? I don't know about you. There's not a lot that I wouldn't give in order to have that privilege. Instead of giving him their lives in light of all of that privilege, verse 66, they abandoned him decisively. Well, the question is there anything here that'll help us understand why all Christians aren't Christians? Are there any marks of the fake, the almost Christians, in this text that will help us understand this phenomena? I think there is.

So it's point #1) ***Know the Truth About False Christians. Know the truth about false Christians.*** This text, like so many others that we've already seen in the book of John, this text exposes the truth about the almost Christian. And it's important for all of us to know these truths. Look back at verse 60. Says, "When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This is a hard saying. Who can listen to it?'" We see first that false Christians do not accept the truth. It's too harsh. It's too difficult to embrace. It's too sharp for them to carry. They don't want to hold onto it, so they don't accept it. They get rid of it. They stand in judgment over the truth, and say, "This is unacceptable. This is intolerable. I will not believe this." They don't accept it.

Second, false Christians do not obey the truth. They don't obey the truth. "They don't listen to it," verse 60, "with a view to obeying it." That word here means to heed it, to take it seriously, to put it into practice. No, they brush it aside. Picking and choosing what they like and what they don't like, evaluating whether or not they like it, whether or not it meets their standard for how they are going to choose to live their lives. Jesus will not do that. I will do that. Third, false Christians complain about the truth. Verse 61. "But Jesus knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this," grumbling about his teachings. His teachings don't make them happy so that they embrace it, they complain. Why would he say that? I wish he didn't say it that way. I wish he could just make it easier. It's so harsh. It's so offensive. It's so exclusive. Why does it have to be that way? Why do you have to be that way?

Fourth, false Christians are offended by the truth. Verse 61, "Do you take offense at this?" You offended by what I'm saying now? When he says this, he's accurately identifying their hearts because his words are making them angry. I just picture some of them shaking, so offended. How dare he say these things? They're not going to tolerate this any longer. So fifth, false Christians eventually abandon the truth. Verse 66, "They abandon the truth." John 8:31 says that "If you abide," if you remain, if you continue "in my word, you are truly my disciples." So false disciples, false Christians, eventually leave. It's 1John 2:19, people who abandon the truth, "They went out from us but ..." the truth is "they were not of us." They weren't the real thing because if they had been of us, they would've continued with us. But they went out. They defected; they abandoned the truth that it might become plain that they all are not really one of us. Not the real thing. Not a Christian in the first place.

So it's these first four marks that then lead to the fifth mark, but it's these first four marks that are what's happening outside of the fake Christian. But what's going on the inside. On the inside, verse 63, "They are just flesh. No work of God in their soul." Even though they've been associated with Jesus, even though they've been connected to his people, they ultimately stand in arrogant judgment as judging Jesus. They're going to be the judge over him and over his words rather than submitting to those words and giving their lives to him.

Didn't really believe in Jesus because the Spirit hasn't given them the new birth. Even though it seems like on the outside, it seems like he has, the truth is they're faking it. They're faking having spiritual life in their souls. Why? Because if they were the real thing, their response to Jesus would not be what? It wouldn't be those four marks. It wouldn't be that. But they don't have life.

They don't believe in Jesus. Verse 65, because the Father hasn't given it to them. They're fake Christians following Jesus without the grace of the Father, without the words of Christ, and without the work of the Spirit in their soul.

I want you to notice the context that Jesus says these things. Jesus is not letting these people off the hook for rejecting him. He holds them responsible for not believing in him while at the same time telling them that the reason they don't believe is because God hasn't graciously mercifully given it to them to believe, and why does he do that? Because these people are convinced that they're okay with God. Their reaction to his words shows that they are not, shows that God is not at work in their souls, so what he's doing is he's saying God is not at work in your soul because this is how you're responding to me in the hopes that they would go, oh no, God's not at work in my soul. I'm going to cry out to him for mercy. I'm going to cry out to him to forgive me then. But as you know, verse 66, that's not how they respond.

Jesus gives us five marks to recognize the false Christian, and he gives us the reason for false Christians. So, what are you and I supposed to do with this? What's the point of all this? This text is here for our benefit. This text is here to help us. First, it exposes the truth so we can see it in ourselves. Do I know someone who doesn't accept the truth, complains about it, is often offended by it, and certainly doesn't obey it and still considers themselves a Christian? Anybody knows someone like that? Well, Jesus says here that they aren't Christians, and the people there that day proved that they weren't the real thing because when they were confronted by the word of God himself who only speaks the truth, they didn't repent, they left.

What we think is, well, as long as they don't abandon him, like publicly say like I'm done or something like that, as long as they don't doubt, maybe they're okay. Maybe that profession they made when they were five, or at the youth camp when they were 12, I mean that's the real truth about them. They've abandoned him. Maybe they've abandoned him in their hearts, but they haven't abandoned him in their lives. They're deceived into thinking that they can be a follower of Jesus without actually following Jesus. That they can be saved while still refusing to accept the truth, complaining about the truth, often being offended by the truth, and not giving two real thoughts to actually obeying the truth.

They hear the truth, and they redefine it. It doesn't mean that. They hear the truth, and they go, yeah, but what about this and well, what about that? They're going to stay away from the truth. They don't want the truth at all. Now, I know I may have just been speaking about family or a parent, a spouse, a dear friend, a child. And I know it may be incredibly painful to think about this, but seeing the truth, knowing the truth about them in the pages of God's word is critical. It's critical for knowing how to think rightly about them. It's critical for knowing how to talk to them. It's critical for knowing how to pray for them, not as lapsed Christians, or they're just kind of going through a phase, but that they actually need God to save their souls. They need to be awakened to the reality that they are fake Christians. So that they will repent and believe.

Or in all of this, I may have been hitting a little too close to home. And second, the text might be a mirror that's been exposing the truth about you. Finding out that not accepting the truth,

complaining about it, being offended by it, and disregarding disobedience to the truth, finding out that that is actually proof that you're a fake Christian, I hope that this truth will do in you what it didn't do to the mass of people listening to Jesus that day. I hope that it will cause you to cry out to God for mercy. I hope that it will cause you to feel the weight of your dilemma, that you're wandering on the path that's running towards the pit of hell, convince the whole time that you are safely on the road to heaven.

Don't give the excuse that it's God's fault, and he hasn't given me faith and the Spirit hasn't given me life, and it's not my fault. The truth is that you're a fake Christian should in this moment cause you to beg for mercy. Cause you to cry out to God to forgive you and save you and wash you white as snow. Because listen, that is the kind of God that he is. But he's not going to give you salvation on your terms. I can reject everything about the truth and still be a Christian. No. That's not how this works. You come to God on his terms, not yours.

Now, if you've made it this long, which many haven't this weekend, if you've made it this long, you might be vibrating in your seat right now. I'm going to get up and leave. I can't handle this anymore. Just like the people did that day. But listen, don't let today be the day that you abandoned the truth. Excusing the exposure of your unbelief by minimizing your responsibility. Don't let today be the last day you hear the truth of God's word and never come back because this is unacceptable, and it is offensive and I'm out of here.

It is no accident that you are here today on the day that I would be preaching this text. That is a gift of God's grace. Just like the gift of God's grace for Jesus to say these things to these people is a gift of God's grace that you would hear these things. Not so that you would harden your heart, not so that you would see with clarity what you truly are before God and then walk away like you never saw it. No, but that you would respond the way that the true believers responded that day.

Look at verse 66 again. "After this, many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the 12, 'Do you want to go away as well?'" Jesus used the sovereignty of God and salvation to explain why these people were rejecting him, but it seems that there's an implication in that question right there in verse 67 that he's also using the sovereignty of God and salvation to comfort himself with the unbelief of these fake Christians who were in this moment beginning to walk away, and in his grief, he turns to the 12 and says, "What about you? Are you going to leave too?" Verse 66 again says it wasn't a few but, "Many turned back and no longer walked with Jesus." This may be the second worst 666 in the Bible, right? John 6:66. First is the mark of the beast, right? Revelation 13:18, which, Christian, are you going to be here for? The answer is no. The answer is no. You're not going to be here for that.

So, despite of the mass defection going on all around him in this moment, it seems the picture, if you think about all of chapter 6, we've gone from 10,000 to 20,000 people following Jesus all the way down 12. Peter speaks up and he reaffirms their trust in him, their commitment, their allegiance to him. Verse 68 answers the question, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed and have come to know that you are the holy one of

God." Jesus should everybody else leave, we're not leaving. No, not us. We don't need popular opinion. We don't need majority acceptance because we have the truth, and not only do we have the truth, notice verse 69, "We believe, we are convinced that the truth is true."

You don't see here any lack of acceptance. No complaining about the truth, no being offended by the truth, no refusing to submit to the truth. So the result is, when everybody else is leaving, what do they do? They stay. They do not defect. They remain, and though they will not be perfectly loyal, as we will see, they are faithful to the end when they are killed for being Christians. This is the real thing, the true Christian, in contrast to the fake.

So let's, point #2) ***Identify the Truth About True Christians. Identify the Truth About True Christians.*** What is it that marks the true Christians out from the fake Christians in our text? Well, first, true Christians embrace Jesus' deity. True Christians embrace Jesus' deity. Notice Peter identifies Jesus as two things. He calls him Lord in verse 68 and he calls him the holy one of God in verse 69. Both of these are titles for God in a Jewish context. He is identifying Jesus as God. I mean, talk about a truth that billions of people do not accept, complain about, are offended by, and refuse to submit to, the deity of Christ, right? It is the dividing line. It's one of the major dividing lines between Christianity and every other religion on the planet that Jesus is the God Man. Second person of the Trinity. God became a human being. All religion and false teaching seem to be united on this that they reject, they complain about, and are deeply offended by this fact, this truth, that Jesus is deity.

Then notice, second, true Christians embrace Jesus' exclusivity. Embrace his deity and his exclusivity, which is just a fancy word for he is the only way to heaven. He's the exclusive one and only road that goes to heaven, and he makes it clear, that he understood the message that day, he understood verses 26 to 58. He understood it all because he says to his question, there's nowhere else for me to go. There's nowhere else that we can go. You and you alone have the words of eternal life.

We talk about another incredibly offensive idea, that not a single person will enter heaven except through faith in Jesus. That all of other paths, all of the roads that say eternal life, all of the roads that say heaven are actually satanic deceptions leading to hell and eternal death. That that's the truth. That no path marked eternal life will actually get a person to eternal life, except for the one and only path that has a gate on it that reads believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. That to give yourself to any other religion, or religious leader, or religious movement instead of Jesus, or to even put your ultimate hope for eternal life in your own good works instead of the work of Christ, that that is to be lost, damned, condemned to eternal death forever. Why? Because salvation is in no one else. No one else but Christ.

As Peter said that day, as he's maybe watching hundreds of people walk away and go back to what? Go back to Judaism. Which is what they were putting their hope in instead of Christ. These words here at the end of John 6 are not the result of some emotional high that Peter was on, or a hope of an earthly blessing like Peter giving him a high five like, hey man, thanks for

being loyal. Look at all these yahoos. And it wasn't a desire to make Jesus feel good as everybody was leaving his ministry. No.

This is what all of them, verse 69, what? Have believed and have come to know. This is why I used that word embraced earlier. This isn't an intellectual thing. This is a whole life thing. This is an eating of Christ. This is a fully taking him in. This is trust in Jesus. They're committed to him. They're loyal to him. No matter what's going on around him, they're going to stay true to him. This is what true faith looks like. True trust, true belief in Jesus leads to this commitment, leads to an allegiance to Jesus that is the result of saving faith in Jesus. It's not just an intellectual thing, or something that they prefer as opposed to all the other religious options that are out there. This is Jesus with conviction, Jesus with the rejection of everything else that isn't Jesus. This is Jesus alone.

So that's great, but can you identify the truth about true Christians in your thoughts, in your heart, deep down in your soul. Have you embraced Jesus' deity that he is God who became a man to save men from our sins? Have you embraced that he is the only way to heaven because he is the only one that took care of the problem that keeps us out of heaven, which again is our sin. Is the truth Peter said that day true in your life? I hope so because it wasn't true for everyone who stayed with Jesus that day.

Look at verse 70. "Jesus answered them." Peter spoke for all of them. So now he's talking to all of them. "Did I not choose you, the 12? And yet one of you is a devil. He spoke of Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the 12," don't pass those words by quickly, "for he, one of the 12, was going to betray him." We learn all the way back in John 1:29, that Jesus would be the lamb of God. That there's this idea sprinkled out throughout the book of John that Jesus is going to die, and now we know how. He's not just going to die. He's going to be betrayed, and not betrayed by just anybody, betrayed by one of the 12.

Peter spoke for all 12 of them, but Jesus needs to make clear that not even all of the 12 are actually Christians, actually born again, actually have eternal life. Notice he says there, "Did I not choose you, the 12?" He chose all 12 of them to follow him, to be his inner circle of disciples. But one of the guys he chose, Judas, is actually the devil. He was not a demon posing as a human, but at his core, like Satan, Judas was against Jesus. Even though he was among the people closer to Jesus than anybody else ever were.

Jesus again wasn't surprised. He knew from the beginning of his ministry, probably from the beginning of time, verse 64, who it is that wouldn't believe and who it is that would betray him. He's not surprised by this. He knows Judas was a pawn, a servant, a tool in Satan's hand to do his will, which will lead in about a year from these events to Judas betraying him with a kiss and Jesus being executed. All that's because Judas was an adversary in his inner circle. So close to Jesus. As close to Jesus, if you think about it, as close to Christ as all those who belong to Jesus would give anything to be.

I'd give almost anything to be as close to Jesus as Judas was. What a privilege he had. What a grace that he had. What a gift to be that close to Jesus. A chosen disciple out of all the people alive on the planet at that time, who went everywhere that Jesus did, who heard everything that Jesus said, who saw everything that Jesus did. Things that we read about with fascinated attention; he was there for. Yet none of that meant he was saved.

Standing in a garage doesn't make you a car any more than being at church or even being next to Jesus for three years makes you a Christian. Think about it, all that privilege, all that he saw, all that he heard didn't save him because all of that was not united in his soul with faith. The result is the most tragic person in the history of the world. Jesus sent about in Matthew 26:24, "Woe to that man by whom the son of man is betrayed. It would've been better for that man if he had not been born."

This is the height, the apex, the very top of the top, the worst of the worst. The arch defector from Jesus. But Judas had the same exact heart as all who defect from Jesus. A heart that refuses to accept the truth. a heart that refuses to submit the truth. A heart that is so offended by truth that they want to be done with Jesus. For Judas, so much so he wanted him dead. Judas' defection does not make him a hero to follow. Jonah's abandoning of God's will for his life doesn't make him a hero to follow. I don't know if you're familiar with a man named Demas. But in Second Timothy 4:10, it says that Demas abandons Paul because he loves the world. He's not a hero to follow.

And yet there will come a moment for some of you when you will flirt with or actually follow their example and you will reject God's will for your life, which is to stay faithful to Christ. You will leave the truth because you love the lies of this world instead and as a result, you will betray the Jesus you know and defect. Like Judas, you've had the privilege of hearing God's word. You have seen what salvation does in the lives of others. You've been around the Spirit, the work of the Spirit as he works in others. But like Judas, none of those privileges will save you. You need God's grace.

This is not a Bible study where we just learned about what happened 2,000 years ago and then walk away going, isn't that interesting how people responded to the bread of life? Interesting. These are eternal truths that demand we study the text and then ask ourselves, which group am I in? Which group am I in? If this text is proven that you're not a Christian because the marks of the fake Christian are the marks of your life, even though you walked in here thinking that you are, do not walk out of here forgetting the truth that you saw.

If our text has been a mirror into your own fake Christian soul, today, right now, please, I plead with you, I beg you, humble yourself. In this moment, humble yourself. Turn from your rebellion. Embrace the truth. Embrace the truth that this text is saying about you and do not respond like these people responded but believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. If that is you, please take out your Connect Card, that program you got when you walked in, fill out that Connect Card, and put it in one of those boxes as you leave. Give it to me personally. I want to know you.

I want to pray with you. I want to help you see this. I'll be here to talk with you and pray with you.

Man, it's always so heavy at that Redeemer. You're supposed to leave encouraged, and its heaven and hell every week there. It is. That's right. It is. Because we have no guarantee that we're going to all be back here next week. There's a text in Acts chapter 20 where Paul says, "I'm innocent of the blood of all men because I preach the truth." So like Christ there that day, true preaching divides people. But that dividing of people between the truly believe and the temporarily believe is so that the temporarily believe will see the truth. They'll see which group they are in, and they will repent of their sins and put their faith in Christ. Do not harden your heart. Come to Christ today. Let's pray.

Jesus, it is important to pray now because all I can do is proclaim the truth. All I can do is preach your word. But from that, it's on all of us to respond in the way that you have graciously, kindly been poking us and prodding us to respond. These things are heavy. This is a heavy text. People walking away from you to their eternal destruction. You, the one who came to give life, not the trash of life, not the sewage of life, but the bread of life. Wonderful food that satisfies and sustains, and yet these people treat you like trash and walk away. May that not be true for anybody within the sound of my voice before they die and stand before you. Take these truths, please. Soften our hearts. Draw us to you so that these truths will become real in our lives. Like James 1, don't let us look in that mirror and see the truth and then walk away like we didn't see what we just saw. Give us the courage. Give us the grace to respond. For the glory of your name. Amen.