

Dr. Jerry Nelson

Deserting Jesus

1. (v. 6:60) What is the “hard teaching” to which John here refers? (See 6:37-40 and 6:53-58)
2. (v. 6:61-62) If what Jesus said here is difficult for them to understand/accept, what does Jesus suggest will be even harder to understand/accept?
3. (v. 6:63) Psalm 8:5 declares that God created mankind and crowned him with glory and honor; what then must Jesus mean when he says the flesh counts for nothing but it is the Spirit who gives life? If our flesh is not the source of “life” then what is?

4. (v. 6:64-66) Read 6:44 – What does Jesus here reiterate? What is the result of someone not being enabled by the Father? (See 6:64) What are two reasons why “many” stopped following Jesus? (See 6:64-65)

5. (v. 6:67-71) Based on what John/Jesus teaches in the larger context of John 6, how is it that Peter could draw this conclusion?

What is true about Peter that was not true of those who stopped following Jesus? Who is the source of that difference? What does Peter affirm about the identity of Jesus and the purpose for which Jesus came?

Just to “mess” with your brain: Read 6:39 - How could Jesus “choose” Judas and still be betrayed by him?

Reflection Questions

Do you know anyone who was drawn to Jesus, but after a few years, walked away from the faith? If so, why did they leave? Did they eventually find what they were looking for?

When people walk away from God, what do they walk toward?

What hard teaching has tempted you to walk away from Jesus? What kept you? What work did God accomplish in you through that experience?

Jesus spoke words of life, yet those who heard him did not believe. What they believed would lead to death. What words do you think they heard that influenced them to turn away and no longer follow Jesus? Why would anyone follow words that lead to death?

If God enables us to believe, then can we be held responsible for our unbelief?

Prayer Response

If you are not currently in a Small Group, we encourage you to discuss your reflection questions with a family member or a close friend. Previous lessons are available on-line at www.sgc.org/John.

If you would like to be part of a Small Group, please contact Dori Sear at dsear@sgc.org

