

SERMON: A SERIOUS QUESTION AND A DEFINITIVE ANSWER

JOHN 6:66-69

(66) From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him. (67) Then said Jesus unto the twelve, will ye also go away? (68) Then Simon Peter answered Him, Lord to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. (69) And we believe and are sure that Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

Introduction

Many of the people who initially followed Jesus were not willing to meet the demands of true discipleship. When they learned that Jesus was not going to set up a political kingdom, that He was not going to continue to give them free food, and that He expected full commitment on their part, they stopped following Him. When this happened, the real disciples of Jesus Christ faced one of the greatest tests of their lives. It had been much easier to be a follower of Christ when many were following Him also. It is always easier to flow with the crowd. Now when others were refusing to follow, discipleship took on a new meaning. In this context, Jesus asked the twelve, "Will ye also go away?" Impetuous Peter hit the nail on the head and said in essence, "I ain't going nowhere; I'm sticking with You." Peter gave a solid, definitive, unambiguous, positive answer.

Allow me to digress for a moment and critique contemporary public discourse. It seems as if only a few people will give you a straight answer these days. Many sales people—not all— will withhold the true price of the product until the very end of the process. We all have witnessed, through television, news conferences in which public officials never answer a direct question. They "pivot" to another subject. Pivoting has become an art form. Most news conferences are like contests or sporting events between journalists and the public officials. The public officials claim victory if the questions were successfully evaded. The journalists claim victory, which is very rare, if they force the officials to answer the questions in a "yea-or-nay" fashion. Let us not be molded by the patterns of the world; Let us tell the truth in love. Now back to our text: Peter gave Jesus a solid, definitive, unambiguous, positive answer. Now let's look at our points.

Exposition

1. At Some Point in All Endeavors There Will Be a Call to True Commitment

(The Time for Excuses or Indecision Is Over)

2. There Are Times When You Need To Know Who Is Really With You

(Lip Service Will Not Get It)
(Ability Without Stability Destroys Reliability)

3. Jesus Alone Provides Eternal Security

(John 10:27-29)

4. Peter's Answer Should Be Every Christian's Answer

(Once Saved, Always Saved)
(In Too Deep to Get Out - The Point of No Return)

5. Jesus Is the Best There Is

(Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus)
(With Jesus You Can Only Trade Down)
(You Cannot Trade Up)

Closing Thoughts

Some people drop in and then drop out. I will not be a dropout! I can't be a dropout because God has been too good to me. We don't have to look any further; Jesus is all we need. We may look for a better athletic coach, a better mentor, or a better music teacher, but there is no better Savior. In fact, Jesus is the only Savior. Give God glory! Give God all the glory!

Related Scripture

Matthew 5:37

1st Peter 3:15

Romans 12:2

Ephesians 4:15

End Note

Please don't get confused. "I don't know" is also a definitive answer. When the question is above your pay grade or outside of your area of expertise, "I don't know" is the best answer. Leaders sometimes feel they have to answer every question right on the spot. Sometimes the people that work with you have the right answer. Refer it to them, but stay in the loop.

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