

WILL YE ALSO GO AWAY

JOHN 6:60-71

Text: John 6:67

John 6:67

⁶⁷ *Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?*

Introduction:

It is amazing to consider that chapter six of John's gospel began with the amazing reception to the teaching of Jesus. In verse two we read, "Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed..." And yet in verse sixty-six of that same chapter we read

John 6:66

⁶⁶ *From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.*

What a difference.

The problem was that there were those who wanted the blessing of following the Lord without the problems associated with making a real commitment.

As long as it was convenient, as long as the blessings kept flowing, as long as everyday was a mountain top experience, as long as no real work was required, as long as no deep commitment was expected, these people were willing to follow the Lord, but when it required more, then many walked no more with Him.

I want us to see from the text I want us to see Three Amazing Attitudes towards the Lord.

1. THERE IS AN AMAZING DEFECTION (vs. 66-67)

John 6:66-67

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?

The Lord Asks a Question (vs. 67)

It no doubt shook the disciples to have so many turn from following Christ. And so in verse sixty-seven Jesus quietly turns to his disciples and asks them this question:

“Will Ye Also Go Away?”

It is a simple question, but it is one that must have cut deeply into the hearts and minds of the disciples; for it was directed at all of them.

Once again we need to understand that the Lord didn't ask this question because he did not know the answer, he asked the question because the disciples needed to grapple with the truth.

Not Only Is There Is An Amazing Defection but also:

2. THERE IS AN AMAZING DECLARATION (VS. 68-69)

John 6:68-69

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.

Although the question is directed to all the disciples it is Peter acting as their unofficial spokesman who answers with a question of his own.

“To Whom Shall We Go?”

“Thou hast the Words of Eternal Life.”

In his question he makes an affirmation.

- He Speaks of Belief

He Acknowledged That Christ Alone Has The Words Of Eternal Life.

At least a part of this question expresses the thought of going back.

Peter is expressing the idea that having come to Jesus going back is unthinkable.

Would you consider going back?

Maybe you are discouraged and you are saying at least to yourself, "Right now I think I might!"

If so you need to ask yourself, "What would you go back to?"

Is there anything in your past that can compare to what you have in Jesus?

Would you really go back to the way your life use to be?

Peter accurately speaks for all believers when expresses that there is no other source of life. For as Paul states in Acts 4:12:

Acts 4:12

¹² *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

- He Speaks of Certainty

He Confessed That They Believed Him To Be The Christ, The Son Of The Living God.

Not Only Is There Is An Amazing Defection and an Amazing Declaration but also:

3. THERE IS AN AMAZING DECEPTION (VS. 70-71)

John 6:70-71

⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? ⁷¹ He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

It is amazing the contract we see here. Peter was wholeheartedly following the Lord, but Judas wasn't committed the same way.

It is horrible to think that anyone could betray Jesus, but to think that someone from this intimate group could do so is almost inconceivable.

Close:

Let me ask you, "Can you be counted among the "Company of the Committed?" Will you or have you forsaken Him?

As I close let me mention just a few ways in which we can be guilty of forsaking the Lord.

- We can forsake Him in our prayer life

It may be that once in our lives communication with God was important, but then we got too occupied with the things of this world.

- We can forsake God's house and His work

Many people began with a wholehearted commitment to the Lord's house. But more pressing concerns creep in. Some no longer come at all. Others come on Sunday mornings but they never come back at any other time. It is easy to allow other things to have precedence over being in the services.

- We can forsake Him in the matter of gratefulness

If we are not careful we get to the point that we never stop to thank the Lord for all he has done for us. "We are like the man who had been married for forty-five years to a faithful wife. She died suddenly and at the graveside the man was heard to say, "You know, I loved that woman with all my heart and there were several times in our marriage when I almost told her so."

- We can forsake Him in the matter of giving

Perhaps we once were tithers but then a personal need arose and we stopped. Or we know we should be tithing but we are still waiting for the right moment to start. We tell the Lord that He has first place in our lives but that is not the story our pocketbook tells.

Remember:

Christianity is not a philosophy which we accept, nor a theory to which we give allegiance. It is a personal response to Jesus Christ.